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Japan

SNC Representative Appointed Cambodian Envoy

OW2403042192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0340 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Japan's permanent representative to Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC), Yukio Imagawa, has been reappointed Japanese ambassador to Cambodia, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

Officials said Imagawa, who took up office in Phnom Penh last November as Japan's permanent envoy to the SNC, will formally assume the title of Japanese ambassador to Cambodia from Wednesday.

Japan shut down its embassy in the Cambodian capital in 1975 when the U.S.-backed Lon Nol government was overthrown by the communist Khmer Rouge, now the most powerful of the three guerrilla factions.

The SNC serves as the repository for Cambodian sovereignty during the post-peace agreement interim period leading up to elections and includes representatives of the four main warring Cambodian parties.

South Africa's Foreign Minister Botha Visits

Holds Talks With Michio Watanabe

OW2403021292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0043 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—South African Foreign Minister Roelof "Pik" Botha said Monday he is optimistic that a multiracial provisional government can be formed at an early date, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The officials said Botha, who arrived in Japan earlier in the day from Taiwan, made the remarks in talks with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe.

Watanabe welcomed the results of the March 17 national referendum in South Africa on President F.W de Klerk's power-sharing reforms. Nearly 70 percent of participating whites voted for an end to minority rule.

He said Japan wants tighter relations with South Africa and that as a gesture of its goodwill it will dispatch a government-private sector economic mission there and to other countries in the region on May 9-23, the officials said.

Botha, who has served as foreign minister for 15 years, was quoted as saying the vote in favor of majority rule truly spelled the end of apartheid.

Botha said he expects that in the very near future there will be an agreement on forming an interim leadership that would put blacks in power for the first time.

Details of a transitional administration are being worked out in the forum of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA), which is comprised of 19 black and white political parties.

CODESA, which held its first full session last December, is expected to meet again in April, conclude an agreement on intentions and principles, and nominate the members of the interim government.

The officials said both foreign ministers shared the view that an early visit to Japan by De Klerk would further bilateral relations, which were almost exclusively economic in nature throughout the apartheid period.

They agreed to continue adjusting their respective schedules through diplomatic channels. Officials said Japan wants De Klerk to visit in June.

In response to De Klerk's campaign to end apartheid, Japan lifted most of its sanctions against South Africa last year and in January reopened full diplomatic relations after a 50-year break.

Botha, who last visited Japan in 1986, said the African National Congress (ANC) led by Nelson Mandela has gradually been changing its once radical policies, but warned there remain "communist elements" in the party.

He hailed the ANC's move to tone down its previous calls for nationalization and come out in support of developing the private sector.

Botha said he hopes that in considering the future of South Africa, Japan will look not only to black-white issues, but will support such basic principles as private land ownership, freedom of speech, a free-market economic orientation, and independence of the judiciary.

The officials said Botha told Watanabe it is South Africa's desire to serve as the locomotive for the development of the Southern African region as a whole in the post-apartheid period.

Watanabe responded that Japan expects that democratization and economic development in South Africa will have positive ramifications throughout the African Continent.

They said Botha will visit South Korea and Singapore before returning to Pretoria.

Holds News Conference 24 Mar

OW2403054092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0411 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—South African Foreign Minister Roelof "Pik" Botha said here Tuesday that South Africa hopes to establish diplomatic missions with all major Asian countries as soon as possible.

"With apartheid gone, you can see there is no limitation on the expansion of South Africa's representation" in Asia, Botha toid a news conference.

In East Asia, South Africa maintains full diplomatic relations only with Japan and Taiwan. Top priority nations for establishing missions are South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, and Singapore, a spokesman for the South African Embassy said.

Referring to a victory in a March 17 vote that gave his government a mandate to continue power-sharing negotiations with the black majority, Botha said his country is seeking wider trade and investment from all over the world, particularly Asia.

Without economic growth, the political reforms aimed at establishing a postapartheid constitution could be jeopardized by violence and unrest, Botha said shortly before departing for South Korea and Singapore at the end of a 24-hour visit.

"No one can turn around in the rest of the world and say to Japan you should not trade with an apartheid government. Those days are gone," said Botha.

$2.2 Million in Relief Aid To Go to Africa

OW2403055492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0527 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Japan will provide 2.2 million dollars in emergency funds for United Nations relief operations in Africa in response to an appeal made by the world body in late January, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday.

Officials said the fund will help support programs of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) aimed at improving health, nutrition, education, and sanitation in Africa.

Most of Japan's aid will be directed toward countries in the Horn of Africa, including Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, and Djibouti. Some 23 million people in the region are imperiled by protracted conflicts and drought, they said.

Officials said the rest of the aid will be directed to Liberia, where civil war rooted in tribal rivalries has displaced some 1.1 million people, or almost half the country's population.

Panamanian Terrorists Claim Abduction Credit

OW2403070692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0630 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Mexico City, March 23 KYODO—A terrorist group operating under the name M20 has claimed responsibility for the abduction and continuing detention of a Japanese employee of Citizen Latinamerica Corp., affiliated with Tokyo-based Citizen Watch Co., according to both official and company sources.

The Japanese watchmaking firm Monday also confirmed for the first time that the employee, Takashi Ota, 45, has in fact been abducted.

Ota was reportedly last seen outside a Chinese restaurant in Panama City on March 14, and it had been rumored he was the target of a kidnapping.

Panamanian mass media reported last Wednesday that Citizen had made a 750,000 dollar ransom payment for an abducted employee, adding that this had not led to his release.

Officials of the Japanese Embassy in Panama said Monday that Katsuaki Noji, president of Citizen Watch Co. of America, had disclosed that a man identifying himself as a member of the Panama-based anti-United States, antigovernment group, M20, telephoned an office of Citizen Latinamerica Corp. on the morning of March 16.

But Noji declined to comment on whether a ransom demand had been made, or on the gender of the Spanish-speaking caller, the embassy officials said.

The Panamanian Foreign Ministry and the police authorities also officially said the same day that Ota had been abducted by M20.

Both Citizen Latinamercia Corp. and the Japanese Embassy declined to comment on the reasons for Monday's announcements on the kidnapping.

Rice Stock 'Expected To Fall' To 7-Year Low

OW2403090192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0643 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—The volume of rice held in stock by the government is expected to fall to a seven-year low of 300,000 to 400,000 tons by next October, the Japanese Farm Ministry said Tuesday.

The estimate was included in a basic rice management program for the 1992 rice year (November 1991 to October 1992), presented Tuesday by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries to a meeting of a ministry advisory panel, the Rice Price Council.

Ministry officials said the rice stock will decrease because the 1991 rice crop totaled only 9.18 million tons, the lowest in 11 years and far below the projected production volume of 9.85 million tons.

They said the stock is likely to return to the optimum level of one million tons by October 1993 since the government has relaxed its production controls for the 1992 rice crop.

But if 1992 rice production turns out to be low after the poor 1991 crop, the rice stock could be depleted, the officials said.

This would cast doubts over Japan's policy of maintaining self-sufficiency in food supplies, which is at the center of a controversy at the Uruguay Round of global trade talks, they said.

Takishi Kato Found Guilty in Recruit Case

OW2403133892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1248 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—The Tokyo District Court on Tuesday gave a suspended two-year prison sentence to a former vice minister of labor and fined him 6.81 million yen for his role in the Recruit stocks-for-favors scandal.

The three-judge court found Takashi Kato, 62, guilty of bribery for accepting shares of Recruit Cosmos Co. at a low price before they were floated to make a windfall profit.

The Recruit scandal also involved secretaries or relatives of incumbent Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, then prime minister Noboru Takeshita, who was forced to resign, and former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

All of them made windfall profits through the resale of Recruit Cosmos shares after the stock was made available to the public in October 1986.

The prosecution did not file charges against Miyazawa, Watanabe, Takeshita, or Nakasone.

Recruit Cosmos is the real estate subsidiary of information business conglomerate Recruit Co.

Prosecutors charged that Kato helped halt work on a bill of new regulations on help-wanted ad magazines like Recruit's. They demanded a two-year prison term and a 6.81 million yen fine, contending that the scandal undermined public trust in government officials.

Presiding Judge Taketaka Nakagawa fined Kato 6.81 million yen, the amount of the profit he made on the Recruit Cosmos shares, in addition to the prison term, which was suspended for three years.

Judge Nakagawa agreed that not only was the people's trust in the administration of the Labor Ministry hurt but added that Kato bore a heavy responsibility for the "remarkable fall in people's trust and the fairness expected of state public servants."

Prosecutors said that Kato, then director of the Labor Ministry's Employment Security Bureau, initiated work in 1983 on a draft of new regulations for help-wanted ad publications.

Around September 1984, Kato halted work on the draft legislation.

In September 1986, Kato, by then administrative vice labor minister, received 3,000 shares of unlisted Recruit Cosmos stock for 3,000 yen each from Hiromasa Ezoe, founder of the Recruit group.

Kato made a profit of 6.81 million yen by selling the shares when they became available for public trading at the end of October the same year.

The former vice minister maintained throughout the trial that he did not offer favors to Recruit. Although acknowledging that he accepted the shares, Kato denied it was a bribe.

The court ruled that the prosecution's deposition in which Kato acknowledged the shares were a bribe was "reliable."

Kato is the third defendant to receive a judgment in the Recruit bribery scandal. Eight more cases remain pending, including that of Ezoe, and former Chief Cabinet Secretary Takao Fujinami in the Nakasone government.

Previously convicted in the Recruit trial series are Hisashi Shinto, the former chairman of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT), and Ei Shikiba, a former senior official of NTT.

Hata Indicates Expectations of Early Rate Cut

OW2403065092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0623 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata Tuesday indicated confidence about the soon-to-be-announced package to boost the sluggish economy, while also expressing hope that the Bank of Japan [BOJ] will follow the government's line by easing monetary policy.

Hata, at a press conference after a regular cabinet meeting, said the package of measures to prop up the slowing economy will have a good effect on the bearish business sentiment.

"We will soon see the signs of brightness," as both fiscal and monetary measures spur the economy, he said.

A top Finance Ministry official said Monday the government will most probably announce the package next Tuesday.

It will include further fiscal stimulants to supplement the five-point program, including the ahead-of-schedule implementation of public works projects, the government announced early this month.

While stressing the central bank is solely responsible for monetary policy, Hata nevertheless said, "I don't think the BOJ will be self-righteous."

He said the central bank should take steps to dissipate the lingering expectations of lower interest rates, which have tended to stifle corporate investment.

The BOJ and government ministries are conducting hearings to assess current business conditions, he pointed out, adding that "the central bank will come up with a decision based on the results (of these hearings) and the recent series of economic indicators, like the BOJ's quarterly survey on business confidence."

The BOJ's so-called tankan [short-term observation] survey, released earlier in March, showed Japanese business confidence has reached a four-year low, engendering widespread anticipation of another cut in the official discount rate by the bank.

EPA Head Views Timing of Rate Cut, Package

OW2403065192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0625 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Economic Planning Agency Director General Takeshi Noda indicated Tuesday that an official discount rate cut and the government's planned package of economy-boosting measures may not be implemented at the same time.

Referring to the February money supply growth hitting a record low, Noda said at a press conference after a regular cabinet meeting, "it may be evidence of dull economic momentum."

Noda showed a positive attitude toward a cut in the official discount rate, saying, "I believe the Bank of Japan also pays much attention (to the figure)."

As to the timing of the base rate cut, however, Noda said financial and monetary policies will not necessarily "come into effect as unified measures."

North Korea

South's DLP Warned Against Election Rigging

SK2403054092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0507 GMT 24 Mar 92

["'Election' Rigging Will Invite Resistance"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 24 (KCNA)—If the "Democratic Liberal Party [DLP]" rigs "returns" of its members with fraudulence in the "general elections of the 14th National Assembly" of South Korea slated today, it will meet bitter resistance of the people, says NODONG SINMUN today.

With the "general elections" at hand, the "DLP regime" issued an "A-class emergency duty order" to cover the whole land of South Korea with repressive armed forces and launched into the last-minute election operation with the mobilization of all the party and administrative power, the analyst says, and continues:

For its "landslide in the elections" the "DLP" has put stress on overpowering the opposition forces with the party and administrative power and winning voters over to its side by threat, appeasement and deception.

It has put pressure in every way upon many opposition and independent rivals who might defeat its candidates to withdraw their candidacy.

It has hurriedly invented "party members to be used only once in elections" in a bid to increase party influence, while inviting voters to tourist travel and distributing towels, soap, roast meat, scalloped soup, distilled liquor and money to them.

The "DLP" which has engaged itself in flunkeyist, treacherous acts as the U.S. colonial servant is fooling the people with the words of "stability" and "commitments" and, worse still, trying to win them with a few pennies and a cup of coarse fermented liquor. What a vice it is!

No matter how desperately it may try to win "a sweeping victory in the elections" and "stable majority", it will have nothing to get but denunciation by the dissident forces and people.

The South Korean people are willing to vote for democratic figures.

They are also determined to bring to light any slightest fraudulent act of the ruling party during the voting and vote-counting with high vigilance and judge the "DLP".

Paper Says South 'Has No Will' To Denuclearize

SK2303063592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0519 GMT 23 Mar 92

["NODONG SINMUN Denounces South Korean Authorities for Putting Brake on Settlement of Nuclear Problem"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 23 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today denounces the South Korea authorities for having shown insincerity at the first meeting of the North-South nuclear control joint committee for the settlement of the nuclear problem.

Rcalling that the South side came to the meeting without a draft agreement for implementing the denucleariation declaration, the analyst points out: The South side contended that there were no nuclear weapons in South Korea as have been made clear in the "declaration on the absence of nuclear weapons" and "inspections of the same number should be made and brought forward "rules of South-North mutual nuclear inspection" and insisted on reaching an agreement on them.

The nuclear control joint committee is by no means an organisation for a mere inspection, but is for correct and sincere implemenation of the joint declaration of denuclearization.

Any nuclear inspecton should be made not of some chosen object, but of all objects including the U.S.

nuclear weapons and bases so that doubts may be dispelled. The South side however, ignoring such practical work for firmly ensuring denuclearisation, brought forward rules of inspection in name only which excluded inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and bases and insisted on unrealistic "inspection of the same number". This was prompted by a petty trick to avoid the inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and bases at any cost.

This is a clear proof that the South side has no will to denuclearise the country and remove the root cause of nuclear danger. The South side must discard the foolish intention to do harm to us, fellow countrymen, for its own interests, in conspiracy with outside forces, and take the stand of national independence and show sincerity for the solution of the nuclear problem.

Long-Term Trade Agreement Signed With Egypt

SK2403053892 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0450 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo March 22 (KCNA)—A long-term trade agreement between the Korean and Egyptian Governments was signed in Cairo on March 19.

It was signed by Kim Tal-hyon, chairman of the State External Economy Commission and minister of foreign trade, who is heading a DPRK Government trade delegation, and Yusri 'Ali Mustafa, Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade.

WFTU Delegation Issues Statement at Panmunjom

SK2403110692 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1029 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 24 (KCNA)—The delegation of the World Federation of Trade Unions [WFTU] led by its Secretary General Alexandr Jarikov issued a statement here Sunday upon its Korea visit.

Declaring that the delegation has witnessed through the visit a great socio-economic progress made by the DPRK under the people-centred policy based on the chuche idea, the statement noted: We were deeply impressed by the sight of Korean working people discharging their duties for national prosperity and development, closely rallied with a single heart around the party and the leader.

Expressing solidarity of the working masses throughout the world for the tireless efforts made by the workers and trade unions of the DPRK for further consolidation and development of socialism, it said:

The delegation visited Panmunjom and it expresses deep regret at the fact that the U.S. troops still remain in South Korea under the name of the United Nations and there is a concrete wall built in the area South of the demarcation line to perpetuate the division of Korea.

The delegation hails the effectuation of "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" of Korea and "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula".

The WFTU reaffirms its firm solidarity with the Korean people and workers in their efforts for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

It also expresses the optimistic hope that Korea will be reunified peacefully and all the nuclear weapons and foreign troops be withdrawn from South Korea in the near future.

Production Rates of Light-Industry Goods Reported

SK2303122492 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1026 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 23 (KCNA)—A great productive upswing is being effected at light industrial factories of Korea.

The Pyongyang silk mill and the Sinuiju textile mill overfulfilled their daily quotas by 20 per cent in 20 days or more this month.

In a matter of two months this year, the Pyongyang Changgwang garment factory made hundreds of thousands of suits of ten varieties including high-quality suits and Korean clothes for school children and students.

The Hamhung cornstarch factory is overfulfilling its daily quota of sweets production by 50 per cent these days by operating equipment in full capacity.

Besides, light industrial products of good quality are being turned out at the Sunchon children's shoes-making factory, the Pakchon silk textile mill, the Yongchon clothing factory, the Kaesong plastic daily necessities factory and many other factories.

Rural Communities Implement Rice-Sowing Plan

SK2403103492 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1017 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 24 (KCNA)—Sowing of rice on cold beds is in full swing in the rural communities of Korea.

The cooperative farms which had made thorough farming preparations began sowing all at once with the advent of right season.

According to data available, sowing had been carried out on nine percent of the cold beds across the country as of March 22.

Taking the lead are South Pyongan Province (14 percent) and Kaesong municipality (13 percent).

On the other hand, the cooperative farms are accelerating the making of humus pots for maize seedlings.

As of March 22, Nampo municipality carried out the plan 100 percent and South Hwanghae Province 94 percent.

Importance of Ideological Revolution Stressed

SK2103095792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0009 GMT 19 Mar 92

[NODONG SINMUN 19 March special article: "Ideological Revolution Is the Basis for Human Remolding"]

[Text] In his immortal document, "Historic Lessons in Building Socialism and Our Party's General Line," the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il taught that it is imperative to accelerate human remolding and the basis for remolding is to vigorously wage ideological revolution to successfully build socialism. This is the precious guiding principle that the working class party, which is building socialism, should firmly rely on and consistently adhere to. The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: Ideological revolution is building the main force of socialist, communist society by arming people with independent ideological consciousness, and it is therefore the basis for human remolding. Only when we advance, firmly grasping ideological revolution, can we rear people to be communists with a strong independent and creative stand. We cannot rear people to become people with high ideological consciousness and creative ability suitable for a socialist-communist society without ideological revolution. The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's proposition that the ideological revolution constitutes the basis for human remolding is a most correct ideology based on the scientific analysis of ideological consciousness' deciding role in revolutionary struggle, construction work, and in human remolding. As our party has already elucidated, human remolding is essentially ideological remolding. This is because ideological consciousness is a decisive factor mandating mankind's actions. Ideological consciousness is social consciousness reflecting people's demands and interests. This is why ideological consciousness performs a most active function in people's activity.

Apart from the role of ideological consciousness, people's independent and creative activity cannot be contemplated. To remold people to be among those who are developed in overall fields, it is imperative to first remold their ideological consciousness. Proceeding from this, our party since early on has separated ideology from the overall cultural domain and presented the ideology that ideological consciousness decides everything.

Our party's ideology on the ideological theory is a very precious ideological and theoretical weapon not only in rearing people to be independent and creative beings, that is, perfect human beings in all domains, but also in vigorously accelerating socialist-communist construction. Grasping ideological revolution as a foundation in arming people with independent ideological consciousness is the inevitable demand of human remolding. One can actively conquer nature and can wage the active struggle against the oppressors who trample underfoot and infringe upon independence only when one has independent ideological consciousness. Mankind's creative ability and efforts to remold the world, perceiving it in a scientific manner, are precisely manifestations of their consciousness, and mankind's role in the struggle to remake nature and to reform society is none other than the role of their ideological consciousness. In particular, independent ideological consciousness plays an extraordinarily great role in the revolutionary movement to completely realize the popular masses' independence, that is, socialist, communist construction. The revolutionary movement is a movement of consciousness. The revolutionary movement begins with arming people with advanced ideology and achieves victory through the strength of the popular masses who have an advanced ideology. Ideological consciousness prescribes the class character and will and the fighting power of the actions of those participating in the revolutionary movement. People's attitudes and stands on class struggle and their will displayed in the revolutionary movement are mandated by what type of ideology they have. Only when they have an advanced ideology, that is, an independent ideological consciousness, can they have a correct class stand and fight to the end for the victory of the revolution, while overcoming all sorts of difficulties and trials.

The revolutionary ability of the masses is boundless. However, if they fail to have ideological awareness, their revolutionary ability cannot be demonstrated. Those masses who fail to have ideological awareness cannot rise up in the revolutionary struggle even though they endure exploitation and oppression nor can they successfully remake nature and remold society in accordance with their demands.

Only those masses who have firmly armed themselves with independent ideological consciousness and have deep awareness of class interests can display their revolutionary ability to the maximum and ensure the victory of the revolution. Vigorously accelerating human remolding by firmly grasping the ideological revolution as a basis is precisely the inherent demands of the cause of socialism and is a very important problem related to the destiny and future of the cause of socialism.

The cause of socialism is the revolutionary cause of the popular masses who have appeared as the main force of independence for the first time in the history of mankind. Therefore, the cause of socialism is precisely the revolutionary cause that the popular masses themselves carry out. The strong driving force of socialist construction is the high awareness and creative positiveness of the popular masses, who are the master of socialist construction.

Accordingly, to successfully build socialism, it is imperative to ideologically prepare and mobilize the popular masses who are the main force of socialist construction and to see to it that they display ideological consciousness in the practice of the revolution.

Capitalism relies on (?brigandish) discipline. Socialism-communism relies on people's high self-awareness as the master of society. As the legacies of the old society are eliminated in the process of socialist-communist construction, the significance and role of people's awareness and consciousness become greater. Proceeding from this, the working class' party should attach priority importance to the ideological revolution to remold people's ideological consciousness.

The people's ideological consciousness is not remolded instantly. It is wrong to think that ideological consciousness is merely a reflection of reality and that, accordingly, if the social system changes and if material conditions change people's ideological consciousness also will change greatly. Change in objective conditions performs a certain function in the development of the people's ideological consciousness. However, people do not willingly have communist ideology even though the socialist system has been established and even though material wealth increases.

In socialist society, only through consistent ideological indoctrination can people arm themselves with the revolutionary ideology of the party and the leader [suryong], that is, socialist ideology, and perform responsibility and role with high awareness as the master of the state and society. As exploitation and oppression are eliminated and as material life becomes affluent, ideological indoctrination should be further strengthened accordingly. This is an important requirement for consolidating and developing the socialist system that has already been firmly established.

If we fail to continue to strengthen the ideological revolution, people's revolution-mindedness will weaken and an indolent ideological trend will appear. Should this happen, socialism will lose its inherent appearance and driving force. The success of socialist construction and the destiny of socialism depend upon whether we can root out from people's heads all sorts of old ideologies, including individualism and egoism, and, thus, arm them with communist ideology.

As the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il elucidated, we can say that in capitalist society where the principle "material wealth is everything" plays an important role, money is life and that in socialist society where the popular masses have become the master of society, ideology is precisely life. In capitalist society where individualism is rampant and money is everything, people's only goal in doing business is to make money in a bid to realize self interests and demands. However, socialist society, which is based on collectivism and where the popular masses have become the true masters of society, is entirely different from this.

The essence of socialist society and its superiority are prescribed by the master of the society, that is, the popular masses who have socialist ideology. All the people arm themselves with collectivist ideology, that is, communist ideology and struggle with high awareness and ability as the master of society, firmly uniting with comradely love. Precisely herein lie not only the essence of the socialist society, which is discriminated from the exploiting society, but also the driving force which encourages its development.

The superiority of socialist society over capitalist society is synonymous with the superiority of ideology, and the might of socialism is precisely the might of ideology. All people live and develop independently and creatively, forming one social and political organism based on collectivism. Precisely herein lies the genuine superiority of socialist society. The invincible might of socialism lies precisely in that all people are firmly united based on the revolutionary ideology of their party and leader.

The basis in carrying out the ideological revolution is to firmly arm all people with our party's revolutionary ideology, the chuche idea, and, based on this, to constantly strengthen the ideological cohesion and unity of the whole society. Arming all members of society with one revolutionary ideology and achieving ideological unity on the basis of this is precisely not only the inherent demands of the socialist society, but is also a most important problem in successfully building socialism.

It is impossible for people to have one ideology or to think of society as a political and ideological unity in a capitalist society where class positions and interests are different. Rather, the capitalist classes deliberately spread miscellaneous reactionary ideas to prevent the working people from being awakened and united ideologically. However, all the people have a common purpose and interests desiring socialism-communism in a socialist society. For this reason, all members of society can be armed with a communist revolutionary idea. In addition, the unity and solidarity of the entire society can be achieved.

The center in carrying out the ideological revolution lies in making the people a sociopolitical life sharing their fate with the party and the leader, by arming the people with the revolutionary view of the leader, organization, and the masses and by uniting the people around the party and the leader.

The working class party strengthens the ideological revolution. This is aimed at arming the popular masses with the party's and the leader's idea; at firmly uniting them around the party and the leader; at preparing for the main forces of the revolution and enhancing their role; and at thereby successfully constructing socialism-communism.

Therefore, the working class party should carry out all the ideological indoctrination, focusing on arming the popular masses with the revolutionary view of the leader, organization, and the masses and on uniting them to be a sociopolitical life, that is, a mighty unified body thinking and acting only according to the party's and the leader's idea and intent.

Only when the ideological indoctrination is vigorously carried out while adhering to the ideological revolution as the basis of the human remolding, can socialist-communist construction be victoriously promoted under any circumstances. This is a valuable truth confirmed by the practice of our revolution.

Always raising the ideological revolution as the most important task in struggle for socialist construction, our party has continuously strengthened the ideological revolution in accordance with the development of the revolution and construction on the principle of strictly giving priority to the ideological revolution.

Because the ideological revolution has been successfully carried out under the party's correct leadership, all the people in our country can arm themselves with the chuche idea and be firmly united around the party and the leader. By so doing, they are excellently performing their responsibility and role as the masters of the revolution and construction.

The leader, party, and the people are united as a socio-political life sharing the fate of life and death together, and the entire society forms a large revolutionary family. This is our society's true appearance.

The source of consolidation and invincibility of our country's socialism lies in the fact that the people are firmly united around the party and the leader and struggle with firm faith and optimism. Herein also is a rock-firm guarantee to completely consummate the chuche revolutionary cause without budging in the face of any ordeals.

South Korea

President Hails Elections as Fair, Calmest Ever

SK2403033092 Seoul YONHAP in English
0301 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 24 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u and First Lady Kim Ok-suk cast their ballots early Tuesday morning and then thanked the nation for the general elections being held in a fair manner.

After arriving at the polling station near the presidential residence at around 8 a.m., the president shook hands with the other voters and spoke to election supervisors and management officials.

Asked which candidate he had voted for, No said it was the one "who can do his utmost for the nation."

He said the 17-day campaign was quieter and fairer than any before it, despite the squabbling among candidates and parties.

Voters should make wise judgments, finding the people who can contribute to reunification of the country and prosperity, No said.

He said he was grateful to the nation for making every effort possible to conduct the elections in a clean and fair manner.

Other party leaders also went to the polls early and then went to their offices to monitor the progress of the election race. Some were seen discussing the post-election political climate.

Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), voted near his house at around 8 a.m. with his wife.

He told reporters the elections were quieter and cleaner than previous elections despite the mud-slinging and quarrels among candidates during the campaign.

Saying that he was voting in Seoul for the first time for the National Assembly, Kim called for the DLP to be given a majority in the legislature so it could lead the country in stability, in a departure from the unproductive confrontations of the past.

Kim Chong-pil, a DLP co-chairman and faction leader, made a similar comment after voting in Puyo, South Chungchong Province.

Pak Tae-chun, another DLP co-chairman, voted near his house in western Seoul and called for the nation to produce political and economic stability and bury regional antagonism through the elections.

Kim Tae-chung, leader of the main opposition Democratic Party, and his wife voted near their home in Tonggyo-tong, western Seoul.

Kim lamented the general elections were tainted with money and intervention by authorities and called for everyone to vote to "save democracy."

Yi Ki-taek, Kim's co-leader, voting in the same polling station as the DLP's Pak, also lashed out at the government and accused it of trying to fix the election. Nevertheless, Yi and Pak chatted for a while.

Unification National Party leader Chong Chu-yong, accompanied by party members, voted near his home in Chongno, predicting that the UNP would emerge as the largest opposition party in the National Assembly by winning some 120 seats.

Pak Chan-chong, head of the New Political Reform Party, voted near his house in southern Seoul.

Prime Minister Chong Won-sik and his wife cast their ballots at a polling station near his official residence in central Seoul and spoke to election officials.

Yun Kwan, chairman of the Central Election Management Committee , said he estimated voter turnout would be 77 percent to 78 percent in consideration of the high interest in the elections.

Voter Turnout Tabulated at 61.4 Percent

SK2403085592 Seoul YONHAP in English
0846 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 24 (YONHAP)—The voters' turnout rate in the South Korean general elections Tuesday stood at 61.4 percent as of 5 p.m., one hour before the 6 p.m. close of voting.

A tabulation compiled by the Central Election Management Committee said 17,819,070 voters out of the total 29,003,828 eligible voters cast their ballots by 5 p.m.

The ratio represents a decline of 3.6 percentage points over the 65.0 percent recorded by the same time of the previous general elections.

By region, North Kyongsang Province showed the highest turnout of 70.0 percent while the smallest ratio, 55.3 percent, was recorded in Inchon.

Despite the overall lower turnout than the previous elections, Seoul alone registered a higher ratio, 58.1 percent, than the 56.9 percent recorded in the capital city as of 5 p.m. in the previous elections.

Defense Minister Denies Election-Rigging Charges

SK2403031992 Seoul YONHAP in English
0115 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 24 (YONHAP)—Defense Minister Choe Sae-chang dismissed as "inconceivable" Monday allegations by opposition leader Kim Tae-chung that he ordered the army chief of staff and senior military commanders to pressure soldiers to vote for ruling party candidates in the general elections.

"I have stressed the importance of conducting the elections in a fair and neutral manner in staff meetings on numerous occasions," he said.

Saying Kim's allegations were having a grave impact on the discipline and morale of the military, Choe promised a full investigation of charges by an army lieutenant Sunday of vote rigging during absentee balloting by soldiers in his unit.

He said he would make public the results of the investigation as soon as it was finished.

Lt. Yi Chi-mun, 24, of the 9th Infantry Division, was detained immediately after he made the allegation in a news conference and is being questioned by the military authorities.

Yi made a "declaration of conscience" in which he said that soldiers were pressured to vote for ruling Democratic Liberal Party candidates during absentee balloting in his unit.

Opposition Groups Demand Investigation

SK2403072492 Seoul YONHAP in English
0623 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 24 (YONHAP)—As the nation went to the polls Tuesday, controversy was growing over an army lieutenant's allegations that soldiers casting absentee ballots in his unit were pressured to vote for the ruling party.

The opposition Democratic Party [DP] demanded that the military allow an inspection of the site of the alleged irregularities following a meeting of the lieutenant, representatives of ruling and opposition parties, officials from the Citizens' Coalition for Fair Elections and senior military officers.

The military should agree if it had nothing to hide, DP election management committee spokesman Yi Myong-chun said.

1st Lt. Yi Chi-mun, 24, a member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), told a press conference Sunday at the Seoul offices of the Citizens' Coalition for Fair Elections that soldiers in his unit were pressured to vote for candidates from the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP].

Senior officers said the DLP must get at least 80 percent of the votes or else the ballot results would be used against them in next month's performance merit reports, which are used in determining promotions and assignments, Yi said.

They told soldiers the ballot boxes would be examined by the Defense Security Command before they were delivered for counting, he said in the press conference.

Yi was whisked away by members of the Capital Defense Command immediately after the press conference.

On Monday, DP Co-chairman Kim Tae-chung demanded that the soldiers cast their ballots again and accused Defense Minister Choe Sae-chang of ordering the ballots rigged. Choe dismissed Kim's accusation as "inconceivable."

The DP Election Committee demanded that truth be revealed, saying the military authorities "have no reason to refuse our proposal, at least for the sake of the military's political neutrality and to reclaim its honor."

The Citizens' Coalition also demanded that it be allowed to freely investigate the incident.

The Coalition formed a fact-finding committee of six people, while 20 lawyers from dissident organizations formed a group to plead Yi's case.

The organization of lawyers for democracy issued a statement urging that the coalition and investigation authorities open a full-scale probe into the controversy.

Lawyers said they tried to see Yi on Monday morning, but were turned away.

The military says the lieutenant broke regulations by leaving his barracks, but the lawyers say Yi cannot be charged with being absent without leave since he gave the press conference while he was off duty.

The National Organization of Professors for Democracy have issued a statement demanding a probe into the Defense Security Command and the Agency for National Security Planning's alleged intervention in the election. Seven youth organizations, including the YMCA, have demanded Yi's immediate release.

The National Coalition for Democracy and Unification held a press conference Tuesday morning to call for Yi's release and the immediate disbandment of the Agency for National Security Planning and the Defense Security Command.

Election Law Violators Arrested, Booked

SK2403052592 Seoul YONHAP in English
0503 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 24 (YONHAP)—The National Police Administration have 30 people under arrest on election law violation charges, and booked 233 others on the same charges as of Monday night, the deadline for the 17-day election campaign period.

They were among 1,323 people caught by the police on suspicion of violating election laws.

Another 45 were referred to summary trial, 122 were released without charges and 893 are still being questioned, a police spokesman said Tuesday.

Campaigners for independent candidates account for 316 (23.8 percent), followed by those for the opposition Democratic Party with 184 (13.9 percent), the Unification National Party with 177 (13.3 percent), the ruling Democratic Liberal Party with 114 (8.6 percent) and the Minjung Party with 51 (3.8 percent).

Government Proposes Quarterly Nuclear Inspections

SK2303134092 Seoul YONHAP in English
1301 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 23 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea proposed to North Korea at the first inter-Korean Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) meeting Thursday that the JNCC make its regular nuclear inspection a quarterly event and, in addition, conduct special inspections on 12 occasions every year.

The regular inspections should cover four spots at a time and the special inspections, which are supposed to be made upon requests of the other side, cover at least 40 sites a year, according to the South Korean proposal, which was partly revealed in the National Unification Board's "weekly report on North Korean affairs" released Monday.

Seoul suggested that each regular and special inspection last no longer than seven days and five days, respectively, and that the inspection team be manned by 15 persons.

In the meantime, North Korea proposed that the inspection be divided into two categories: one on nuclear weapons and nuclear bases and the other on nuclear facilities and nuclear materials.

According to the report, Pyongyang suggested in the meeting that the frequency of nuclear inspections be decided through bilateral negotiations and that the inspection team have 10 or fewer members.

North Korea was known to be opposed to Seoul's idea of selecting the same number of inspection targets in both sides under the principle of reciprocity.

KOTRA Allowed To Seek North Korean Contacts

SK2103010292 Seoul YONHAP in English
0022 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 21 (YONHAP)—The National Unification Board approved Friday an application filed by 38 officials of the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) for blanket permission to contact North Koreans.

The KOTRA officials may now meet North Korean trade officials and businessmen abroad at their own discretion to discuss trade and other business deals. Thirty of them work at 23 overseas offices and eight at KOTRA's main office in Seoul.

The approval was the first of its kind ever granted en masse. The government previously allowed contact with North Koreans only on a case-by-case basis.

It seems to reflect a government policy of energizing economic exchanges and cooperation with the North and giving KOTRA, a state-run firm, the central role in direct business with North Korea.

Of the 23 KOTRA offices, six are in Asia, four in the Middle East and Oceania, five in North America and eight in Europe and Africa.

KOTRA, buoyed by the approval, intends to make economic cooperation with North Korea one of its top priorities this year.

Construction Minister Lauds Projects in Taiwan

SK2303130492 Seoul YONHAP in English
0855 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 23 (YONHAP)—Taiwan is looking forward to active South Korean participation in construction projects under its six-year national development plan, Construction Minister So Yong-taek said Monday.

"I have learned that the Taipei government is having high regard for Korea's construction capacity," So said on his return from a four-day visit to Taiwan.

He said it would be profitable for both Seoul and Taipei if Korean firms took part in the construction projects in tie-ups with Taiwanese firms.

So said he expected Korean construction firms to take the initiative in response to the "friendly" offer.

The construction sector of Taiwan's six-year development program is expected to cost 120 billion U.S. dollars, providing Korean firms with opportunities to win contracts worth 45 billion to 50 billion dollars for subways, high-speed railways and highways.

The lack of an investment protection accord is considered a major obstacle to Korean firms making inroads into Taiwan's construction market.

Company Plans Production of CFC Substitute

SK2403023492 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] Ulsan Chemical Co. said yesterday that, after nine years of research, it is almost ready to start production of a substitute for ozone-destructive chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

Ulsan Chemical told Vice Science Technology Minister So Chong-uk it would begin building a plant with a capacity of 10,000 tons of halo-CFC (HCFC)-22 annually this year and complete it by the end of 1994.

HCFC-22 is one of 20 known CFC substitutes. Eighty-one nations have so far joined the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the ozone layer, which bans any use of CFCs from the year 2000. Some members, such as the United States and the European Community, are talking about pushing up the date to 1996.

Protocol members can deny imports of CFC-using products from non-members.

South Korea applied to the Montreal Protocol in February and is expected to become a full member by the end of May.

The chemical firm began research on HCFC-22 nine years ago jointly with the Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST). The substance will replace CFCs in air conditioners and fire extinguishers.

HCFC-22 has a 0.05 ODP (Ozone Depletion Potential), compared to 1.0 for CFC. It is effective up to 15 years, but can destroy the ozone layer when used for long period of time and thus is suitable only as a temporary substitute, according to experts.

Company officials said they will test-produce substitutes such as HCFC-141B and HCFC-142B until end of June, and start plant construction in 1993.

Bankruptcies Increasing in Sluggish Economy

SK2103003992 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Mar 92 p 8

[From the "News Analysis" column by staff reporter Yi Yang- Hyon: "Bankrupt Companies Surge as Sluggish Sales Continue"]

[Text] An increasing number of Korean companies have failed to honor their bills since the beginning of this year, with negative effects spreading over a broad front of the Korean industries. At the same time, a growing number of marginal companies which lost competitiveness are rushing to the court for receivership in desperate efforts for survival.

According to the Bank of Korea as many as 1,175 companies have gone bankrupt so far this year—502 in January, 413 in February and 260 during the first 18 days of this month. The ill-fated companies numbered about 1,000 in the first quarter of last year.

If this trend is left unchecked, the number of bankrupt companies will most likely far surpass the 6,159 mark recorded last year.

The sharp rise in the number of insolvent companies was largely attributed to sluggish sales in domestic and foreign markets.

The government's tight monetary policy, aiming at easing the mounting inflationary pressure was also responsible for the flooding bankrupt firms. In particular, companies which depend mainly on domestic markets are being hit hard by money policy. Industrial restructuring, now under way in Korea, is also blamed for the steep rise in the number of insolvent companies. In a move to hasten industrial restructuring, the government stuck to its proclaimed position not to bail out marginal companies which have lost their competitiveness in both domestic and foreign markets. Against this backdrop, most of the companies which failed to honor their bills last year were small- and medium-sized exporting firms, while a variety of business concerns, ranging from domestic demand-based firms, to listed ones and to large companies, are among the bankrupt companies this year.

Furthermore, the number of ill-fated companies are expected to further increase this month when business fund demands will sharply expand, because of the scheduled payment of corporate taxes and dividends totaling about 1.3 trillion won.

The number of listed companies which applied for court receivership so far this year soared to six, including Non-no and Samho Co., compared with eight during the whole of last year.

Most companies which applied for court receivership were known to face bankruptcy brought on by excessive business diversification and investment in real estate.

They have a slim chance to survive, though the court has accepted their application, said banking officials.

With few days to go before the parliamentary elections, more and more marginal companies are applying for court receivership, they also said.

But, the government will not bail out the companies caught in a cash crunch and facing bankruptcy, a high-ranking government official said.

Despite a series of bankruptcies this week, including Samho Co., the government saw no reason to take extraordinary steps, he said.

Banking institutions will not make loans to bail out insolvent companies either, he said.

"Bankruptcy is attributable to their own problems such as a shortage of money caused by mismanagement, excessive business expansion and sluggish sales," he said, denying that insolvency is the result of a shortage of liquidity in money markets.

Accordingly, marginal companies have no choice but to depend on their self-financing efforts to survive, he said.

Burma

Karen Leader Calls for UN Intervention

BK2403015392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Mar 92 p A6

[Text] Anti-Rangoon Karen leader Gen Bo Mya has urged for UN intervention to end the ongoing "war of annihilation" in Burma which is posing a "serious threat to regional stability and world peace."

In separate letters to UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus Ghali and to Gilberto Schlittler, secretary to the UN Security Council, Bo Mya stated that the civil war inside Burma has gone beyond national boundaries and could escalate into an international war, said Em Martha, spokesman of the Karen National Union (KNU).

The Karen call comes at the time when the Burmese Army is investing its ground and air strength to capture the Karen headquarters of Manerplaw, and the other stronghold of Kaw Moo Ra, located about 100 km further to the south.

Bo Mya's letters, which are being forwarded to the UN chiefs, coincided with a condemnation of Rangoon for the "misuse of state funds" by U Win Khet, a senior exiled member of the poll-winning National League for Democracy [NLD].

Win Khet, an NLD founding member, said the Burmese ruling junta State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) has "misused state funds to purchase weaponry and military hardware" to fight the national ethnic groups.

The 56-year-old NLD leader also urged quick UN intervention to stop the civil war in Burma saying the Slorc is turning ethnic "liberated areas into killing grounds."

Similar to the Karen statement, Win Khet, said if the ongoing civil war does not end, then more and more people would suffer just like some 200,000 Burmese Muslims who fled alleged persecutions at homes in Arakan State into Bangladesh.

He said Burma is facing a "critical moment" of military offensive, massive human exodus and political turmoil, all of which "can affect regional peace and stability," and appealed to the international community to render "immediate and effective assistance to the KNU to protect all pro-democratic elements from the Slorc's brutal atrocities."

In the past two years, SLORC has failed to seize the riverside Manerplaw, which also serves as the base for the NLD parallel government, dissident students and monks, and an alliance of over a dozen of anti-Rangoon ethnic groups. The opposition believes that the Burmese attacks on Manerplaw will intensify this week when Rangoon commemorates Armed Forces Day on March 27.

KNU spokesman Martha said the Karen were concerned that the ongoing "war of annihilation" could expand into a "possible international war," which would then threaten peace in Southeast Asia.

Bo Mya also urged the UN to call for an "immediate ceasefire," and to send soon "a fact-finding mission to observe the situation," said the spokesman. SLORC, he added, has always rejected the KNU ceasefire proposals and the Burmese ground and air strikes "indiscriminately threaten civilian and ethnic lives and population."

The Burmese Army has dug-in at the Karen first defence line of Hill 4044 or the Sleeping Dog hill after capturing it on March 12, and since Sunday morning has fired 105-mm howitzer artillery shells, most of which hit the periphery of Manerplaw and the surrounding mountains.

Dissident Leader Criticizes Treatment of Muslims

BK2303132492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1308 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Bangkok, March 23 (AFP)—The head of Burma's dissident government on Monday denounced what he said were atrocities against the country's Muslim minority by the military junta in Rangoon.

Sein Win, prime minister of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, condemned "the atrocities and human rights violations inflicted upon the Muslims of Arakan by the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council], and the unlawful attack on a peaceful neighbor by the armed forces of the illegitimate military regime in Rangoon."

Hundreds of thousands of Muslims from Burma's Arakan state have crossed the border into Bangladesh in recent weeks, alleging persecution by Burmese troops. There also have been border clashes between Burmese and Bangladeshi troops.

The State Law and Order Restoration Council, as the Rangoon junta calls itself, has denied the charges.

Sein Win call in his statement for the Burmese and Bangladeshi governments to cooperate in settling the issue, and for the United Nations and the world community to aid the Muslims.

Delegation Returns From Border Talks in PRC

BK2103093492 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] The Burmese technical delegation led by Naval Captain Tun Aung, commander of the Naval Hydrographic Depot of the Ministry of Defense, arrived back in Rangoon by air today after attending the Burma-China-Laos tripartite meeting on determination of the trijunction point of the Burma-Laos-China boundary.

The meeting was held in (?Jinghong), Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China from 13 to 17 March.

During the meeting the Burmese delegation held discussions with the PRC delegation led by Mr. (Chen Wei Li) and the Lao delegation led by Mr. (Oun Chomaset) on border demarcation on the trijunction point of the Burma-Laos-China border and carried out field inspection work. The memorandum on the meeting was signed on 16 March.

The Burmese delegation was welcomed by responsible officials of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, the Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and departments concerned.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Cambodia Seeks Help in Drafting Economic Laws

BK2403080092 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Cambodia has sought Malaysia's assistance in formulating laws and regulations in line with its aspirations to create an open-market economy. The minister of international trade and industry, Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, has received the copies of the laws and regulations on investments in Cambodia from its minister of economic planning, Mr. Chea Chanto. She says the ministry was asked to review the laws and to suggest the areas that need changes or improvement.

Datuk Sri Rafidah told newsmen this in Kuala Lumpur after Mr. Chanto called on her. Accompanying the Cambodian minister were two deputy ministers. She added that Cambodia [words indistinct] Malaysia's efforts to develop the country. That is the reason why it has sought Malaysia's assistance in efforts to transform its economy. The minister urged the private sector to look at Cambodia and other Indochinese states as a long-term investment prospect.

Minister on Transport Cooperation With Cambodia

BK2303141292 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Malaysia would send a team to Cambodia soon to identify areas in which both countries can intensify cooperation in the transportation sector. The team could comprise officials from Malaysia Airlines, airport and airport authorities, and the National Institute of Public Administration.

Transport Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Ling Leong Sik said cooperation will focus on areas such as management and administration training. Training in aviation management has been identified as an initial area for cooperation.

He told reporters this after Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Prince Norodom Chakkrapong called on him at the ministry in Kuala Lumpur. Prince Chakkrapong invited Malaysian businessmen to set up business joint ventures in his country.

He arrived yesterday for a four-day visit at the invitation of the Transport Ministry.

Army To Help With Development Projects

BK2403080492 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0734 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Kangar, March 24 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Malaysian Armed Forces will extend its cooperation in the implementation of socio-economic development projects in areas along the Malaysia/Thai border, Defence Minister Najib Razak said Monday [23 March].

He said Armed Forces personnel would be able to help out in the projects now that the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) had laid down its arms. Speaking to reporters after breaking the fast with Perlis UMNO [United Malays National Organization] youth members here, Najib said the armed forces would work together with the security working committee in states concerned to implement the projects.

He said to date armed forces personnel had helped out in three development projects along the border areas, including the construction of a lighthouse at Tak Bai and a ferry service between Tak Bai and Pengkalan Kubur in Kelantan.

1990 Environmental Quality Report Released

BK2303123992 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 20 Mar 92 p 1

[By Nafizah Nadzim]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Thurs.—The food and beverage industry has been identified as the biggest polluter of the country's inland waters, according to the 1990 Environmental Quality Report released today.

It accounts for 41 percent of the 2,240 sources of water pollution.

The next biggest culprits were the palm oil and raw natural rubber mills which together made up 21 percent of the polluters.

This was followed by the rubber products industry (13.6 percent), the chemical products industry (11.7 percent), the textile and leather products industry (8.4 percent) and paper industry (4.1 percent).

Of the total number of water pollution sources, which include mills and factories, 67 percent were located in Salangor, Perak, Johor, Kedah, and Penang and seven percent in Sabah and Sarawak.

The rest is distributed among the other States.

The report noted that 15 out of the 56 contravention licences—given for cases of non-compliance with acceptable conditions of discharge of waste into the atmosphere and inland waters—issued in 1990 were to the food and beverage industry.

Some of the reasons provided to justify the licence to contravene include the construction or upgrading of treatment plants, discharge into central sewer or lack of land.

Domestic sewage and animal waste constituted 89 percent of the organic waste discharged into inland waters.

The report said there was a slight increase in the Biological Oxygen Demand (B.O.D.) load from agro-based and manufacturing industries compared with 1989.

"However, their contribution to the total organic load in 1990 remained relatively insignificant," it said.

The B.O.D. is a measure of the quantity of oxygen needed to break down wastes.

In the area of abatement and regulatory control of pollution, the report said there were signs that crude oil processing mills were now more attentive to licensing requirements.

"Results of monitoring 167 palm oil mills in 1990 showed that 82 percent complied with discharge standards for B.O.D.; 98 percent with standards for oil and grease and 93 percent complied with standard for ammoniacal nitrogen and total nitrogen.

"The cases of non-compliance could be attributed to improper management of treatment systems, the use of undersized systems and increased milling capacity during peak crop season."

However, black smoke emission and open burning of empty fruit bunches persisted among a few hills, the report said.

Records also showed that the status of compliance of raw natural rubber factories was still unsatisfactory as they were found to overload effluent treatment systems and disregard proper maintenance of these systems.

The report said the rubber-based industry continued to pose a problem when it comes to the disposal of vulcanised rubber wastes.

"In 1990, only seven such industries were given contravention licences to carry out open burning of their wasters," it said, adding that 141 rubber-based industries were still in operation.

Many textile factories were operating without proper effluent treatment systems resulting in the pollution of a number of rivers in Perak, Johor, Selangor, Kelantan, and Terengganu.

The report said industries had been given a grace period to build and start up effluent treatment systems.

The factory operators will in the meantime be required to improve their housekeeping to reduce oil and grease in their effluent discharge.

Singapore

Government: No Entry Ban on Malaysian Vehicles

BK2303124192 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 21 Mar 92 p 27

[Text] There is no ban against Malaysian-registered vehicles entering Singapore, the Government said yesterday to clarify Malaysian press reports.

A statement from the Ministry of Communications said that under the law, work permit holders and employment pass holders are not allowed to use foreign-registered vehicles in Singapore unless they pay Singapore registration taxes.

To keep roads here free from congestion, foreign-registered vehicles which use these roads regularly must be subject to the same land transport policies as Singapore vehicles, the statement said.

Referring to the uproar in Malaysia about an apparently new ban on Malaysians driving to work here, the statement said that 196 work permit holders were booked in the past two months.

Malaysian newspapers have quoted differing figures for the past two months—from as low as "several hundred" to as high as 5,000.

The Registry of Vehicles, while carrying out its regular enforcement against smoky and noisy vehicles, detected the 196 Malaysians using Malaysian-registered motorcycles without paying the required registration taxes.

These work permit holders would have been allowed to use their motorcycles here if they had paid Singapore motorcycle taxes, the ministry said.

Indonesian Minister Urges More Joint Ventures

BK2303113692 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] The Indonesian Minister for Industry Mr. Hartarto this afternoon called on Prime Minister Mr. Goh Chok Tong at the Istana [Palace].

Mr. Hartarto earlier attended a seminar organized by the Singapore Manufacturers Association. He urged Singapore and Indonesia to set up joint ventures and (?expertise) for entering the regional and global markets.

Parliament Approves 1992 Government Budget

BK2003092692 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 20 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Parliament yesterday approved the Government's Budget for the fiscal year beginning 1 April.

The Supply Bill includes $10,472,299,590 for manpower, supplies and recurrent expenditure plus $8,233,857,800 under the development estimates.

The vote came at the end of a seven-day debate during which MPs [members of parliament] in the Committee of Supply, examined the spending plans of individual ministries.

The Committee passed without debate the estimates for these organs of state: The Attorney-General's Chambers, Auditor-General's Chambers, Cabinet Office, Judicature, Presidential Councils, and the Public Service Commission.

The estimates for Pensions and Financial Transfers were also approved summarily.

The House also passed the Supplementary Supply Bill, to provide for last year's spending that was in excess of the 1991 Budget.

Cambodia

MIA Remains Reported Recovered Near Phnom Penh

BK2403074092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] The office searching for the remains of U.S. servicemen in Phnom Penh yesterday dislosed that the U.S. Army Special Forces have unearthed some remains in Cambodia.

Major John Sovocool, director of the POW/MIA Office, said the skeletons of 14 individuals believed to be reporters from U.S. television networks CBS and NBC were recovered last week from a rice field 54 km south of Phnom Penh.

Five television correspondents—including Welles Hangen, an NBC correspondent—were captured by Viet Cong and Khmer Rouge troops on 31 May 1970. Apart from Hangen, were television cameraman Roger Colne, a French; and sound recorder Yoshihiko Wabku, a Japanese. These two persons worked for the NBC television network while the two other Japanese—Kojiro Sakai and Tomoharo Ishii worked for CBS.

The Japanese and French Governments plan to take part in the ceremony to hand over the remains on Tuesday morning 24 March at Pochentong Airport. These will then be taken to the identification center in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Reportage on Hun Sen's Three-Day Visit to Japan

Meets Prime Minister Miyazawa

BK2403051292 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0414 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 24—Prime Minister Hun Sen met in Tokyo Monday with Japanese Premier Kiichi Miyazawa during his three-day visit there (March 21-23).

During talks, Miyazawa expressed his great concern over the Khmer Rouge's troops mobilisation thus threatening the peace plan in Cambodia.

Miyazawa praised Prime Minister Hun Sen's efforts in cooperating with Chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia Prince Norodom Sihanouk in accelerating the U.N. brokered peace plan.

"They need funds this year, not to wait until next year so as to carry out the peace plan," he stressed.

Japan decided Tuesday to provide 24.9 million dollars for initial cost of the U.N. operation in Cambodia and an additional 27 million dollars for refugee repatriation.

The UNTAC budget covers expenses for peacekeeping duties, disarming the armed factions, supervising elections, repatriating refugees now in camps in Thailand and reconstruction of Cambodia.

Hun Sen asked Miyazawa to send Japanese police and civil servants for peacekeeping operation in Cambodia.

He said: "It's the duty and honour of Japan in sending its troops to strengthen peace of another country under the U.N. operation".

He thanked the Japanese Government and people for their active efforts in the peace process in Cambodia and wished for more contributions from Japan to the process.

Before leaving for Washington the same day, Hun Sen also met with Japanese Finance Minister Hata, President of Komeito Party Mr. Koihiro Ishida, and President of the Socialist Democratic Party Mr. Makoto Tanabe.

Requests Economic Advisers

BK2303143392 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1125 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 23 Mar (SPK)—Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia [SOC] Council of Ministers and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, received at the New Otani Hotel in Tokyo Sunday afternoon, 22 March, Mr. Michio Watanabe, Japan's vice prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

Mr. Watanabe noted "the importance of SOC cooperation in the promotion of the peace plan's implementation because of the fact that it is controlling a large part of the country's territory and population." He highly appreciated the efforts of Mr. Hun Sen in his cooperation with Prince Norodom Sihanouk to carry through the Paris agreement and to help UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] fulfill its mandate. He asked the SOC to assist Mr. Yasushi Akashi, head of UNTAC, in accomplishing his mission.

On Japan's contribution to the peace process in Cambodia, Mr. Watanabe said: "Japan is the first country to have contributed $25 million for the start of the UNTAC operation and besides it has provided $35 million for the

UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Rugees] budget for its program to repatriate Cambodian refugees.

"The Japanese Government will provide UNTAC with a sum greater than the 12 percent required as its oblgations and will send a fact-finding mission to Cambodia to study the possibility of providing a bilateral aid to that country to ensure the functioning of the Cambodian Government, a factor guaranteeing the success of Cambodia's reconstruction," the Japanese chief diplomat said.

Mr. Watanabe asked Mr. Hun Sen to convey his greetings to Mr. Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party and of the National Assembly; Mr. Heng Samrin, chairman of the Council of State; and Mr. Hor Namhong, SOC minister of foreign affairs.

For his part, Chairman Hun Sen expressed satisfaction with the way Japan has discharged its obligations which, he said, made it possible for the implementation of the peace plan. He also thanked Japan for its assistance to the program of Cambodian refugees' repatriation, which will contribute to alleviating the burden on the SOC because on their return to the country these refugees will have to be settled in the zone under the control of SOC.

Mr. Hun Sen asked the Japanese Government to send its economists to work in Phnom Penh as economic advisers to the SOC Government. This proposal was accepted by the Japanese minister of foreign affairs.

During his stay in Tokyo, Mr. Hun Sen also met with Messrs. Taro Nakayama and Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, both former ministers of foreign affairs in Japan.

Japanese Deputy Premier Meets Leading Officials

Received by Hor Namhong

BK2103065492 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] At 0930 on the morning of 20 March at the State of Cambodia's Foreign Ministry, His Excellency [H.E.] Hor Namhong, State of Cambodia's foreign minister and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], cordially held talks with H.E. Koji Kakizawa, Japan's deputy foreign minister.

On this occasion, H.E. Koji Kakizawa highly appreciated the activities of the SNC and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia which are striving to push the peace process toward achieving good results. He said that at the end of March, the Japanese Government will arrange a seminar on Cambodia's reconstruction. He further said that Japan is the first country to have provided 25 million dollars for the [words indistinct] United Nations and 27 million dollars for the UN High Commisioner for Refugees, and another 8 million dollars for rebuilding Cambodia. Japan has also upgraded the status of its special representative to Cambodia to ambassador. Japan will also set up a committee to search for Japanese civilians missing in the Lon Nol and Pol Pot era.

Replying, H.E. Hor Namhong profoundly thanked the Japanese Government and parliament for their great contribution to the search for peace in Cambodia. Japan is a country which has provided a lot of aid to Cambodia. H.E. Hor Namhong asked Japan to rebuild National Route 6, provide electricity for Battambang and Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Provinces, rebuild Chrouy Changva bridge, and restore Angkor Wat temple.

Talks With Son Sann

BK2303042392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] The bulletin of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] in Phnom Penh, which came out last Friday, reported Sieng Lapresse, KPNLF spokesman, as saying that His Excellency [H.E.] Kakizawa, Japanese deputy foreign minister, has informed H.E. Son Sann that the Japanese Foreign Ministry will propose that the government send economic and financial experts to study and determine measures to help resolve economic and financial problems in Cambodia. The Japanese deputy foreign minister talked about this in response to H.E. Son Sann's request for Japan's assistance in solving problems faced by poor Cambodian people and peasants in their daily life.

In a meeting with the Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister on 15 March at the office of the KPNLF in Phnom Penh, H.E. Son Sann expressed thanks for Japan's attitude in finding a solution to the Cambodian problem and also satisfaction, on behalf of the KPNLF and the Cambodian people, with the appointment of H.E. Yasushi Aakshi as chief of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia].

On this occasion, H.E. Kakizawa told H.E. Son Sann that Japan has received reports that H.E. Son Sann has strongly called on the world to pay attention to Cambodian ancient temples and that Japan is determined to assist in restoring these temples.

H.E. Son Sann thanked the Japanese deputy foreign minister and added that this is very good because Cambodian temples represent the soul of the entire Cambodian people. H.E. Kakizawa suggested that H.E. Son Sann attend the conference on Cambodia's reconstruction in June this year in Japan because Japan views H.E. Son Sann as an economic and financial expert. H.E. Kakizawa also suggested that H.E. Chairman Son Sann call on the four Cambodian parties to cooperate among themselves under the leadership of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the Supreme National Council to achieve peace in Cambodia.

Greeted by Chea Sim

BK2303020692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] At 0800 on 21 March at the office of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, received H.E. Koji Kakizawa, Japanese deputy foreign minister.

On this occasion H.E. Chea Sim warmly and cordially welcomed H.E. Koji Kakizawa for his visit to the State of Cambodia as it is implementing the Paris peace agreement. H.E. Chea Sim highly valued the bilateral relations and economic cooperation which are getting better from day to day. H.E. Chea Sim stressed that Japan has an important role in the peace process in Cambodia with its successive financial assistance to rebuild the coutnry. H.E. Chea Sim called on the Japanese Government to contribute to the speedy construction of hospitals, schools, and refugee centers.

Replying, H.E. Koji Kakizawa thanked H.E. Chea Sim for allowing him and his delegation to pay a courtesy call and hold direct talks. H.E. Koji Kakizawa highly appreciated the achievements scored by the Cambodian people under the leadership of the CPP and the State of Cambodia's Government. H.E. Koji Kakizawa expressed great joy at the peace and national reconciliation process in Cambodia and also reaffirmed his support for the efforts of the party and the State of Cambodia's Government, which has correctly implemented the Paris peace agreement.

Japanese Ambassador Signs Aid Agreements

BK2103070092 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 20 Mar (SPK)—Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC] Yukio Imagawa on 17 March signed two development aid projects for Cambodia through nongovernmental organizations JVC and 24-Hour Television.

The first project, worth 37,978 U.S. dollars, is for the purchase of spare parts for vehicles of the Transport Company.

The second project worth 37,178 U.S. dollars deals with the construction of an infirmary in Kandal Stoeng District, Kandal Province.

Activities of National Security Minister Cited

Meets Russian Envoy

BK2203063392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] On 18 March, His Excellency [H.E.] General Sin Song, Standing Committee member of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee and minister of national security, met and had a cordial talk with H.E. Yuriy Myakhotnykh, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Cambodia.

H.E. General Sin Song expressed profound thanks to H.E. Myakhotnykh who is busily carrying out his diplomatic mission in Cambodia in the name of a permanent member country of the UN Security Council. He also informed the guest of the developments in Cambodia, particularly the rapid change in the nation's economy, thus creating favorable conditions for the Cambodian people's livelihood and for the national reconciliation process in Cambodia.

H.E. General Sin Song also noted the activities of the National Security Force in ensuring people's security and maintaining public order.

In his reply, H.E. Myakhotnykh praised the all-around efforts made by the State of Cambodia Government to implement the Paris peace agreement successfully. He also informed H.E. General Sin Song of the activities of the Cambodian students in the Russian Federation following changes in economic and political fields in the past several months.

Meets UNTAC Police Chief

BK2403045692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] On the evening of 19 March, General Sin Song, State of Cambodia's minister of national security, received General Klass Roos, chief of the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] civilian police.

His Excellency [H.E.] Sin Song specified that over the past 13 years the State of Cambodia has made efforts to gradually restore and rebuild the country in the face of a serious situation. H.E. Sin Song stressed that the Cambodian People's Party and the State of Cambodia's Government have implemented the 23 October 1991 Paris peace agreement firmly and sincerely. H.E. added that the State of Cambodia's National Security Ministry is ready to cooperate with the UNTAC civilian police to ensure safety and security for the coming elections.

The talks also focused on the extent of cooperation of the National Security Ministry with the UNTAC civilian police in the repatriation of Cambodian refugees from Thailand.

Sihanouk Speaks at FUNCINPEC Congress

BK2303130192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Speech by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, to the Cambodian people during the FUNCINPEC (National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia) Congress at Phum Trom-Ampil, Oddar Meanchey Province which began on 27 February; date of speech not given—recorded]

[Text] My most humble respects to all venerable monks; my respects to all their excellencies, ladies, gentlemen, and mistresses, members of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and all distinguished citizens—Samdech Euv [Prince Father], Samdech Ta [Prince Grandfather], Samdech Me [Princess Mother], and Samdech Yeay's [Princess Grandmother] own children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. My respects to Samdech Nhoek Chulong, honorary chairman of FUNCINPEC; Prince Ranariddh, chairman of FUNCINPEC, and the princess consort; my beloved and missed children and grandchildren. I am fortunate and honored to say hello to all of you today. Today I am fortunate, honored, and happy to meet with you again for the second time in two consecutive days. This makes me boundlessly pleased and happy. [cheers] This is because I have always really missed all grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters, children, and grandchildren who live far away from me. I have never forgotten my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

I returned to the motherland in my capacity as the head of state on 14 November 1991. Since then I have been fulfilling my tasks as head of state on both the national and international stages. My tasks are multiple. I have considerable work to do to help solve complex problems for our nation and to restore the motherland, which had sunk so low since the day I was forced to leave you by the coup d'etat in March 1970. Up until 14 November 1991 I had been separated from all of you, my children and grandchildren. I was separated not because I wanted to be, but because of the unfortunate event that prevented me from returning to national society as desired. It was because of that that I was separated from you.

Now many children and grandchildren have met and asked me not to desert them again. I have never deserted you. As I said just now, I only want to live with you forever. [applause] Therefore, from now on we will not be separated from one another again. I have asked to live in Cambodia with all my children and grandchildren in all provinces, such as those in Oddar Meanchey and Ampil. We are going to live together like in the 1960s. I will stay here until I die. When I die, my remains should be cremated on Cambodian soil and the ashes enshrined in a stupa in Cambodia. My soul will rest with all of you forever. [cheering and applause]

My beloved and missed children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, I would like to take this opportunity to express most sincere praises from the bottom of my heart in my name and on behalf of your Samdech Me and Samdech Yeay to all children and grandchildren in the liberated zone under the enlightened, shrewd, and highly patriotic leadership of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Ranariddh and the princess consort, under the leadership of all FUNCINPEC personalities both inside and outside the country who are gathering within the world congress in Ampil. I also would like to praise the children and grandchildren, the citizens and my own children and grandchildren who are meeting in a massive number in a fraternal atmosphere around my person today, together with those who are the families of all grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and those who cannot come here. I also send them my love and greetings. In sum, I address all children and grandchildren in all liberated zones and provinces of Cambodia under the leadership of HRH Prince Norodom Ranariddh and under the distinguished leadership of the glorious FUNCINPEC party. [cheering]

FUNCINPEC, my children and grandchildren, is the national united front of Cambodia for a Cambodia with independence, neutrality, and peace, a Cambodia that cherishes cooperation among Cambodians and that maintains friendship with all countries which respect our independence, neutrality, and territorial integrity, particularly friendship and fraternity with the Kingdom of Thailand, our neighbor. Therefore, FUNCINPEC is a French acronym for the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia. I have already translated it into Cambodian for you. I translate it for you because I am the very father of this FUNCINPEC. [applause] I would like to thank Prince Norodom Ranariddh and all personalities, civilian and military, for kindly treasuring FUNCINPEC in my memory by carrying on my mission in serving the nation, building the nation, and defending the nation and its independence and territorial integrity. [cheering]

Besides, in speaking of building the nation we do not refer only to the prosperity and prestige of our country. We are building it for the happiness, for the improvement of the living conditions of all of you children and grandchildren, of the citizenry, of the populace. Some call it the populace, some the citizenry, some the people. It all depends on which party, which faction is speaking. In French, however, it is always "le peuple," "le peuple Cambodgien," meaning our entire Khmer, entire Cambodian nation. We thus must serve our Cambodian populace, citizenry, and people. We serve them in order to improve their living conditions.

We must seek to alleviate their poverty, lessen their needs, bring about prosperity and abundance. We must strive to resolve all existing problems. For example, if

our people lack knowledge and need schools, we must build schools and get instructors to teach our children and grandchildren. If they lack good health, we must build hospitals, man them with doctors and nurses, and supply them with medicines and medical equipment. For example, we must work to develop the field of agriculture, which is vital to the existence of our beloved people, by making farm tools, water works, and rice seeds available, and so on.

All of these are just a few examples of how to serve the people. For this reason, I am very pleased to see that my children and grandchildren in FUNCINPEC have joined hands under the leadership of HRH Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Samdech Nhoek Chulong, and the Royal Consort Princess Marie in serving the people in line with the traditions of our kings since time immemorial and according to the traditions of Sangkum Reas Niyum [the Popular Socialist Party] of which I was the chairman from 1955 to 1969. What you have accomplished is excellent. Since early in the morning I have attentively watched and examined the realizations, the results of the efforts made by the children and grandchildren in FUNCINPEC and ANKI [National Army of Independent Cambodia] who have been working hard everyday relentlessly for years in the liberated zone. You have made considerable achievements.

This is also partly because I have frequently come to help you in the liberated zone, as you have pointed out in some footnotes. I have noticed that your progress is most remarkable because of your own efforts under the leadership of Prince Norodom Ranariddh. Your progress has been evident in all fields, such as public health, education, public welfare, agriculture, handicrafts, communications and transport, urbanism, and finding solutions to the people's problems.

For this reason, besides the children and grandchildren who have always been under FUNCINPEC leadership, there are now more and more people who have fled from other areas to the areas under FUNCINPEC control. This is a success for FUNCINPEC. It shows that the children and grandchildren in FUNCINPEC under the leadership of Samdech Chulong, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, formerly its secretary general and currently its chairman, and Princess Marie, as well as all other leaders of FUNCINPEC and ANKI—formerly ANS or the Sihanoukist National Army—have worked hard and achieved good results in serving the nation and people in accordance with the instruction and training that I have given them. It is because you have done well that the children and grandchildren in the FUNCINPEC zone have not deserted to other zones, while many children and grandchildren from other zones have joined FUNCINPEC-controlled areas.

I am therefore very pleased with all FUNCINPEC children and grandchildren for working to lead our nation toward dignity, full honor, independence, peace, and territorial integrity, as in the time of Samdech Euv, the time of Sangkum Reas Niyum. [applause and cheering]

I praise and admire all of you, children and grandchildren. I most warmly praise HRH Prince Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of FUNCINPEC, the royal consort Princess Marie, His Excellency [H.E.] Samdech Nhoek Chulong, and all children and grandchildren who are leaders of FUNCINPEC and ANKI. I thank all of you very much and I most warmly praise all of you for uniting yourselves as a single body, for treasuring national unity, independence, territorial integrity, and peace in the national society, and for using our peace and independence as a firm foundation for national construction in order to bring about national glory and prosperity as explained in the sweet and highly meaningful speech by your representative just now. We must run and catch up with the civilized countries of the world. We must not be left behind and shamed by other countries. This should be the honor of our nation and the duty of all of you. You have carried out this duty well and have filled me with admiration. I would like to praise you again.

Samdech Euv now has been asked to be the president of all of Cambodia, to be the neutral president. For this reason Samdech Euv is no longer the head of any party. FUNCINPEC is the child that Samdech Euv has personally conceived. But I would like to hand it over to my son, my most beloved and trusted son, and the trusted leader of all of you—namely, HRH Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Being neutral, I need not be partial to any party or faction. For this reason, wherever I go I have to commend anything I see that is commendable. Why? To encourage our fellow Cambodians who have made efforts to build the nation, encouraging them so they have the heart to continue working with increasingly better results for our nation and motherland, which has become independent again thanks to the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, which is the achievement of the Cambodian patriots. It is correct to say that this was possible thanks to the assistance of foreign countries. But as I noted yesterday, we do not make self-flattering boasts. It is the truth. What is the truth? The fact that everything involving Cambodia would not have been achieved if Cambodians had not done it themselves, if they had refused to make sacrifices, if they had not taken the right path. Without the Cambodians helping themselves, no foreigner can help them. No one can.

Now we see that many of our great friends have come to help us. We would like to thank our friends very much. There are many doctors, professors, and specialists in the humanitarian field, for example, who have come in to help us. Our good Thai friends have also kindly helped us and many other good friends from France, the United States, Canada, Indonesia, and many others from the socialist parties, yes, and from France, the United States, and so on. As you can see, many have given us considerable aid. We must thank them. However, if we wait only for them to help us without helping ourselves, we cannot survive, my children. Independence, territorial integrity, and peace cannot survive if Cambodians do

not help themselves. Now it has been decided that 15,000 foreigners will be sent in to help us. Be it 15,000 or 20,000 or even 50,000, they can do nothing if Cambodians do not help themselves. [applause]

The other day the international community was very angry with us Cambodians because an Australian sent by the United Nations to help us was wounded when a UN helicopter—like the one I was riding this morning in my visit to you here, a white helicopter with the letters U and N on its fuselage, meaning United Nations—was shot at and hit. Luckily the gas tank was not hit. It would have crashed if the gas tank had been hit. An Australian colonel was wounded by a bullet and General Kruoch Yoeum was also onboard. He was lucky to be unhurt.

So, no one can help Cambodia if Cambodians do not help themselves. Not only would Cambodia not make it, but other people who come to help us would be hurt or slain as well. Take UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia] which, for example, has been working hard to help us. Not only has it failed to accomplish anything, but one of its men was almost killed. Now I have been asked to make an investigation. I do not know how I can investigate that incident. This is because you cannot expect a man who has committed an offense to confess. Unless he is caught redhanded, he will not confess when asked. No faction has taken responsibility when asked. I have already asked all of them and no one has admitted knowledge of the crime. I have heard something from Son Sen. Does he know anything? Does Son Sen answer that he knows anything at all?

This is only an example showing that it is possible for there to be no peace settlement. If they come in and try to help us achieve peace but we shoot at them, the situation can only get worse. It would be easier if they were not to come in, for should there be killings the killings would happen among we who are used to 20 years of killings already, since 1970. We are used to tearing at each other's throats. No one seems to pay any attention to my coaxing. If others come in to help us and get killed, we will have a real hard time. It is fortunate that the man only got a hole in his thigh and forearm. If he had been killed it would be worse for us. For this reason, I would like to repeat again and again that so long as Cambodians refuse to reconcile with one another, refuse to help each other, and refuse to save Cambodia, no one else can bring this about—no UN group can, no superpower can. Only if we ourselves have the conscience of patriots, only if we are sensible can we do it.

I almost forgot to mention this hospital which has been built by a family of Cambodian residents in the United States. They have not forgotten their nation and have donated 20,000 U.S. dollars for the construction of this hospital for the people. This is a good example of how Cambodians must rely on Cambodians for prosperity. The same applies to other children and grandchildren. Those who have come to attend the congress have come from Australia, Canada, the United States, France, other West European countries, and many other countries. Although you live in distant countries, you never forgot your motherland. It is not enough just to pursue a national defense policy. That would not suffice. You have to work hard to make a living in foreign countries, yet you have always sent money and materials to FUNCINPEC so FUNCINPEC can distribute them to our people and survive. That is called Cambodians helping fellow Cambodians.

In your speeches just now you talked about territorial integrity, about the presence of Vietnamese in our country, and about peace that has not yet been accomplished. Because I have talked with you so intimately, allow me to dwell a little on these things. Concerning Vietnamese troops, the faction of Democratic Kampuchea has unambiguously charged that there are still Vietnamese troops in Cambodia fighting against the patriotic resistance forces. In my capacity as the neutral president of Cambodia, I have asked the faction of Democratic Kampuchea to please tell me where the Vietnamese troops are. They have said the Vietnamese troops are everywhere in Cambodia. I thus have been looking around for these Vietnamese troops.

I need not be an accomplice of the Vietnamese troops to say that I have not been able to find any of them at all. Maybe they know my comings and goings and thus hide themselves. Other Cambodians also raise the same topic, such as those in the faction of H.E. Son Sann and FUNCINPEC. Some have said: The Samdech should know that a huge number of Vietnamese civilians are colonizing Cambodia. See, there are many of them.

For this reason, each time I travel I keep my eyes open looking for Vietnamese. When tens of thousands of you cheer Long Live Samdech Euv, I wave my hands in a thankful gesture back to you while trying hard to see how many Vietnamese are among you. I am a Cambodian and can recognize a Vietnamese face immediately. I have seen some Vietnamese, but each time I could count only a dozen or so. Some children in the palace have thus concluded that Samdech cannot see the many Vietnamese because each time he goes out they know he is coming and hide themselves. I therefore return to zero in my search.

Here, first, I want to say that if you do not bring me to see those Vietnamese, I just cannot pass any verdict on the issue of a Vietnamese presence in Cambodia. Second, I want to tell you that the United Nations is coming in accordance with the Paris agreement. They said that if there were Vietnamese troops, the Vietnamese troops would be asked to leave immediately and unconditionally. They did not say Vietnamese, but foreign troops. Consequently, my wife said that we must be careful about this foreign troop business. We might end up meaning the UNAMIC and UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] troops and if you start chasing them out arbitrarily, you will be in trouble. We should specify that we mean foreign troops which are not UNAMIC or UNTAC or UN. It was not specified that Vietnamese must leave, just foreign troops. We might get

confused when looking for hidden Vietnamese and find UNAMIC instead. If we start chasing UNAMIC out, we will be in trouble. Therefore, we must specify that foreign troops other than those of UNAMIC must leave.

It has been said that the elections in April 1993 next year, in 13 or 14 months, are extremely important. I would like to clearly inform all of you—because all the congress participants have not left yet—I would like to ask all of you never to forget that Cambodia's fate is in the hands of all of you, in the hands of more than 8.5 million Cambodians. All of you are the masters of the land, waters, and powers—you and not Samdech Euv. We no longer have all-powerful kings like in the time of Jayavarman. Sihanouk comes here merely as the father of the nation, as the shade for the people, and not to rule, not to wield power. I ask my children the people, the masters of the country, the kings—*from now on it is you who are the sovereign people, the kings of Cambodia* [italicized passage in French]; do not forget that—to stop expecting Samdech Euv to do this or that. You must realize that it is you who are the new sovereigns, the new monarchs of Cambodia.

I do not criticize the Khmer Rouge. They said that the people are the masters of the land, but in reality they did not own even a piece of land. They said the people were the owners of ricefields and orchards, but those who used to have them found themselves deprived of everything. They had huts before, and saw their huts taken away; they had wives, and saw their wives taken away. They killed the husbands or took the wives. How could the people be masters of the country under these conditions?

Now, my children, you must not doubt that I come here unlike the Khmer Rouge. When I say you are the masters, you are the genuine masters. No one can take away your land. No one can oppress you. No one can force you to do anything that you do not want to do. You have full freedom now, please believe me. The United Nations also guarantees that for you. You must not be afraid of anyone. Do not be afraid of the politicians. Do not listen to them if you do not want to. Do not be afraid even if they threaten and bully you.

You might ask: How if they use guns to shoot at me, must I not be afraid? For this reason I have asked the United Nations to completely disarm all factions, but some factions have disagreed. They want only 70 percent disarmament. This 70 percent disarmament is a time bomb for all of us. I would like to inform the congress now that 70 percent disarmament is very dangerous. Seventy percent what? Seventy percent of whom? We do not even know how many troops each faction has.

On the other hand, 100 percent disarmament would be easy. You seize every gun you come across. Leaving 30 percent intact would be problematic. They say we should dissolve 70 percent of the armed forces and leave 30 percent. How would you proceed to do that? Some had only 6,000 men and now claim to have 55,000 men. Finally, instead of reducing the forces by 70 percent it would mean increasing them. Therefore, this poses a problem. You who are meeting in the congress must not lose sight of that. This is serious. I do not take responsibility, for I have asked for 100 percent but others have disagreed. I have demanded that all armies be disarmed 100 percent. If we have to dissolve our forces, we might as well dissolve them 100 percent. Let us make a clean break from it.

I was then asked who will police this. I said the United Nations will be the police. Let the United Nations police the country, take control 100 percent. But things turn out to be different. Some of the men become uncertain as they do not know which portion they belong to: the 70 percent of troops cut back, or the 30 percent remaining.

Consequently, many have not even waited for the arrival of the United Nations; whole barracks have fled. Some have sold their arms to the Karen rebels in Burma. There are Karen rebels coming to buy arms here. No, here does not mean Ampil. They have bought them in the border region. And some have hidden their arms for banditry. Therefore, there are many dangers. The problem is not easy to solve. If you only expect Samdech Euv to handle it and you do not have the conscience to do it, we will not be successful. Now you have the power, the power to write newspapers, to express yourselves, to make contacts with the United Nations. You must take responsibility into your hands and settle problems in your capacity as Cambodians, as citizens of Cambodia. Only in this way can you solve the problems. Otherwise, there will be no breakthroughs, for there are many problems.

However, those who listen to me need not be frightened by the complexity of the situation. Do not worry about your future. Ampil has peace. The people in Ampil have peace. There are no problems in Ampil. [applause]

In conclusion, I would like to distribute gifts donated by my friends, such as (Jean de Bonheur), and my personal presents. I have informd His Royal Highnesss Prince Norodom Ranariddh that if I visit my children I will give them 20,000 dollars. I thus donate 20,000 U.S. dollars [applause] to my children to buy whatever you need. Princess Marie, please take care of that. Use it to do things such as help those who have accidents, the widows, the crippled, and whatever is useful to our people. You are the one to take care of all that. This is a total of 20,000 U.S. dollars. [applause] Thank you very much, my children. I am very glad to be with you. Thank you very much. [cheering and applause]

SRV, Phnom Penh Launch Offensive in Kompong Thom

BK2203015092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] On the morning of 20 March, the forces of the Vietnamese aggressors and Phnom Penh side began their offensive against various villages and communes in the liberated zone of our national resistance forces in Stoung

District and the western part of Kompong Svay District in Kompong Thom Province.

According to the reports, the Vietnamese aggressors and Phnom Penh side launched this offensive by firing assorted artillery shells and multiple rockets into our people's villages in this zone. As a result of these shellings, hundreds of people's houses were burned down and dozens of people were killed or wounded, including children, babies, and pregnant women. These forces also burned down houses everywhere they reached. They also arrested hundreds of innocent people. They are interrogating these victims by torturing them.

The entire Cambodian nation and people vehemently condemn this violation of the Paris agreement and inhuman acts of the Vietnamese aggressors and Phnom Penh side.

We once again resolutely demand that the UN Transitional Authority and the quadripartite Supreme National Council correctly examine and judge this violation by the Vietnamese aggressors correctly in conformity with the legal procedures defined in the Paris agreement dated 23 October 1991.

Refugee Repatriation Centers 'Almost Completed'

BK2203125592 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1103 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 22—The officials of Cambodians Red Cross Committee [CRCC] said the construction of the six transit centres for repatriation of the Cambodian refugees from Thai border was almost completed.

The centres which are located in the provinces of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Pursat and the city of Phnom Penh are planned to be finished by early April to receive more than 370,000 Cambodian refugees.

The centres are being set up with the cooperative efforts of Cambodian Government, the UNHCR [UN High Commisioner for Refugees], various international organizations, and the provinces where the centres situated.

According to the CRCC officials, the building of the centres in Banteay Meanchey and Siem Reap is under the CONCERN's responsibility, while those in Pursat, Battambang and Phnom Penh under the COR [Christian Outreach].

The first batch of 100 families who are scheduled to repatriate on March 30, will be received by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the officials said.

The repatriation of Cambodian refugees conforms with the peace agreement signed in Paris last October, the cost of which is estimated at around 100 million U.S. dollars.

Laos

Leaders Attend Party Founding Day Activities

BK2403152392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] On the morning of 22 March, the party committee of Vientiane Municipality held a meeting to mark the 37th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP]. Attending the meeting were Phoumi Vongvichit, advisor to the party Central Committee; Oudom Khatthi-gna, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the party committee of Vientiane Municipality; Somlat Chanthamat, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and head of the party Central Committee Propaganda and Training Board; Thongsing Thammavong, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, and head of the party Central Committee Organizational Board; and more than 1,000 cadres, soldiers, policemen, and Vientiane residents.

Addressing the meeting, Oudom Khatthi-gna discussed the party leadership traditions in carrying out the cause of the national-democratic revolution in the past and in fulfilling the tasks of national defense and national construction in the present, thus guiding the multiethnic Lao people to win one victory after another.

In the past five years of economic restructuring, our party has pursued a new economic policy aimed at transforming the natural and seminatural economy into a commodity economy so as to produce goods for commercial purposes and to acquire lessons in economic development from other countries on the basis of mutual interest, aimed at building Laos into a peaceful, independent, sovereign, unified, and prosperous country, thus actively contributing to the cause of peace and social progress in the world. As for the capital of Vientiane, we have paid attention to building the economic, cultural, social, national defense, and public security maintenance structures, aimed at maintaining social order and improving the people's living conditions to a certain degree.

On the same morning, at the Monument to the Unknown Revolutionary Combatants, members of the party Central Committee Political Bureau—Nouhak Phoumsavan, Khamtai Siphandon, Saman Vi-gnaket, Oudom Khatthigna, Choummali Sai-gnason, and Thongsing Thammavong—and other important figures laid wreaths to commemorate the good deeds and gallant fighting spirit of the fallen heroic Lao combatants.

In addition to holding meetings to mark the 37th LPRP founding anniversary, many offices in the municipality also held lectures on army traditions. On the evening of 21 and 22 March, the Ministry of Information and Culture presented drama performances and other entertainment programs by the central artistic troupe and

acrobatic performances. Sports activities were also organized on the same day, such as soccer matches, cycling, and other events.

Vietnam Greets LPRP 37th Founding Anniversary

BK2303114292 Vientiane KPL in English
0908 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Vientiane, 23 March (KPL)—The Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee [CPV CC] has sent a message of greetings to the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) Central Committee on the occasion of the LPRP's 37th founding anniversary, according to a Vietnam News Agency (VNA) report.

The message read:

"Over the past 37 years, under the leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party headed by President Kaysone Phomvihan, the Lao have travelled through stages full of sacrifices and hardships and achieved many glorious achievements, embarking their country into era of independence, freedom and social progress. The Vietnamese party and people greatly rejoice at the achievements gained by the Lao people in their renovation process over the past five years."

The CPV CC expressed its satisfaction at the further enhancement of the special friendship, solidarity and all-sided cooperation between the two parties, states and peoples as well as the belief that the implementation of agreements reached during the recent Vietnam-Laos summit meeting would actively contribute to the development of each country, to peace, friendship, and cooperation in the region and the world as a whole.

It also expressed thanks to the Lao party and people for their great and valuable assistance to the Vietnamese revolution.

Refugees Return From PRC on 'Voluntary Basis'

BK1803103892 Vientiane KPL in English
0902 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Vientiane, March 18 (KPL)—Sixty eight families of Lao refugees—312 persons—on March 14 returned home from southern China on a voluntary basis. A ceremony was jointly held in this connection by the administrative authorities of Lao Luang Namtha Province, and Sip Song Panna Autonomous Region of Yunnan Province in the presence of the representative of the UNHCR [UN High Comissioner for Refugees].

This was the fifth batch of Lao refugees returning home from China. Of the 312 repatriates, 137 were of Savannakhet, 90 from Saravane, 55 from Champassak, 28 from Vientiane Prefecture, and two from Xieng Khouang.

At present, these refugees still stay in Luang Namtha but they will be returning to their native home town soon. Out of some three thousand refugees living in China, 992 have already returned home so far.

Agricultural Program To Be Launched Nationwide

BK2303114492 Vientiane KPL in English
0904 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Vientiane, 23 March (KPL)—The agricultural program for marketing of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry recently approved at the nationwide conference on agriculture and forestry focuses on the plantation of industrial crops, fruit trees, wood processing and animal husbandry. The potential areas for animal husbandry are the plateaus of Boloven, Nakai, Xieng Khouang, and some other favourable areas.

On Boloven plateau, the program will start with the plantation of coffee, tea, cardamom, pepper, and the raising of water buffaloes and cattle.

Nakai plateau is planned for tree transplantation and exploitation, pine resin extraction, the raising of water buffaloes and cattle. While Xieng Khouang plateau is set for animal husbandry, industrial crops, and cold weather fruit trees. The northern Luang Namtha and Oudomsai Provinces are for rubber plantation and animal husbandry. Benzoin is chosen to be planted in the five northern provinces of Luang Prabang, Oudomsai, Phong Saly, Houa Phan, and Xieng Khouang. Oranges are to be concentrated in Luang Prabang Sayaboury and in southern provinces.

Sericulture and fibrous crops are to be launched in Vientiane, Sayaboury, and Luang Namtha Provinces.

In addition, the programme also includes tree plantation for paper production, pilot lacquer raising, rattan and bamboo project, and wood processing.

Families To Be Resettled for Fixed Farming

BK2303113892 Vientiane KPL in English
0923 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Vientiane, March 23 (KPL)—This year, the Lao government by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry plans to start resettling 10,000 families under fixed farming programme. The figure lies in the state plan for the reduction of the slash-and-burn cultivation by resettling 40,000 families in all.

The plan is an attempt to restore degraded forest, conserve water sources, and make use of simple techniques in the plan, such as building small irrigation facilities in service of cultivation, animal raising and fish culture.

So far, there have been 277,000 families who live on slash-and-burn cultivation method registered across the country.

Eight Sentenced to Prison for 'Subversive' Acts

BK2203061392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1400 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] On 14 March, the people's court of Luang Namtha Province sentenced to prison terms eight bad elements who had collaborated with foreigners to carry out subversive activities against our country. The culprits were:

1. Mai Thokeo, 40, of Ban Phingchai village, arrested on 10 March 1988, sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment;

2. La Su, 37, of Ban Thong Chai Neua village, arrested 14 October 1988, sentenced to 9 years of imprisonment;

3. Som La, 30, policeman of Ban Thong Chai Neua village, arrested on 15 October 1988, sentenced to 8 years of imprisonment;

4. Thao Puei, 40, Thao Thong, 42, and Thao Litho, 45, sentenced to 6 years of imprisonment each; and

5. Thao Gnoi, 34, and Thao Khamchan, 25, sentenced to 4 years of imprisonment.

These bad elements were charged with setting up an underground unit to collaborate with foreigners to carry out activities to undermine and destroy political, economic, and military organizations in the said localities from 1982 to 1988. These persons are residents of Luang Namtha municipality.

Somlat Chanthamat Attends Publishing Seminar

BK2103101692 Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Vientiane, 21 March (KPL)—The Ministry of Information and Culture held in Vientiane on 19 March a seminar on publishing work. Attending the seminar among others were Somlat Chanthamat, Politburo member of the Lao PRP [People's Revolutionary Party], head of the Party Central Committee Propaganda and Training Board, Information and Culture Minister Mounkeo Olaboun, deputy ministers from various ministries concerned, and representatives from printing houses.

The seminar studied and reviewed the situation in publishing activities over the past 16 years, worked out the 1992 plan of action for the work, in addition to discussing the Council of Ministers' provisional regulations on publication, printing, and distribution in the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic].

Philippines

Kidnapped Americans May Be Released in 3 Days

HK2403031592 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 24 Mar 92 pp 1, 10

[Text] Civilian negotiators have convinced Muslim bandits holding two Americans and two Australians in Sulu to release the hostages without ransom, the Armed Forces chief of staff said yesterday.

Gen Lisandro C. Abadia, citing a report from the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Southern Command [Southcom], also said the four foreigners will be released in three days.

"The hostages are in good condition... negotiations went well," Abadia told reporters but gave no other details.

Kidnappers had demanded P [Philippine pesos] 2 million and four Armalite rifles in exchange for the release of Lynette Cook, whose husband Steve is an Australian missionary; their daughter Cheree; and American missionary school teachers Carol Allen and Tracy Rectanus.

The Cooks were touring their American visitors around when seized last Tuesday [17 March] by three men armed with Armalites in front of the Notre Dame school for girls in Jolo.

The American Protestant missionaries arrived in Jolo from Manila a day before the kidnapping.

Representatives of the U.S. and Australian embassies arrived in Jolo four days after the kidnapping and coordinated with civilian negotiators.

A naval blockade was set up last Saturday [21 March] around the coastal town of Jolo where the kidnappers were believed to be keeping their hostages.

Maj Gen Gumersindo Yap, Southcom chief, said the negotiators had established contact with the kidnappers.

The military is sending a Nomad plane to the area today to evacuate the hostages once they are released, Lt Col Tomas Rivera, Southcom spokesman, said.

The kidnap gang is reportedly led by Galib Mutalib, a notorious criminal who had broken away from the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front.

Kidnapping, piracy and blood vendetta are common in Jolo and nearby islands. U.S., Australian and other foreign embassies have advised their nationals against visiting the area.

Military To Use Force if Talks Fail

HK2403024892 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 24 Mar 92 pp 1, 20

[Text] Armed Forces chief General Lisandro C. Abadia disclosed yesterday that the Armed Forces will carry out the "military option" in rescuing four kidnapped foreign nationals if negotiations for their release fail within three days.

Abadia made the disclosure as he expressed optimism that negotiators composed of Muslim leaders in Mindanao and parish priests may eventually convince the kidnappers, members of the Lost Command of the Moro National Liberation Front, to free the foreigners even

New Aspiration leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut said late last night that the party backs an elected MP as prime minister.

—This morning Army Chief of Staff Gen Wirot Saengsanit said the new coalition government and prime minister depends on the position taken by Samakkhi Tham leader Narong Wongwan.

Gen Wirot was the first senior Army officer to say anything on the election results. Army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun and deputy Army chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi declined to comment.

"You must give him (Mr Narong) the opportunity to see what they will do," Gen Wirot said, adding that STP gained the highest number of seats.

He said he did not know how the STP would decide, although it was clear there were two political camps aiming to form a coalition government.

Asked who was most suitable as prime minister, Gen Wirot said this was a matter for the STP. "It depends on whether Mr Narong is prepared to take on the responsibility," he said.

In reply to the observation that the overwhelming support for Phalang Tham shows that the people of Bangkok do not want an outsider as prime minister, Gen Wirot said: "What about the people from upcountry. Aren't they Thais as well?"

Preconditions for Joining Coalition

BK2303114392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Mar 92 p 1

[Report from eight-page afternoon "Election Special" supplement]

[Text] Maj-Gen Chamlong Simuang admitted this morning that a big political party has approached the Phalang Tham Party [PDP] about the formation of a coalition government.

The PDP leader declined to elaborate as the party has not yet decided on the issue.

Maj-Gen Chamlong said in his opinion the next coalition government should have at least 210-220 MP's in the Parliament and should not exceed four parties in order to be stable.

A committee has been set up to consider the formation of the government. Led by Mr Chamlong, it includes Siri Sirirangsi, Suthep Atthakon, Chinawut Sunthonsima and ACM Arun Phromthep.

The PDP demanded that some important issues be settled before forming the coalition government with other parties. These issues include an elected premier, an amendment of the constitution and the right of the PDP to screen ministers in the coalition government.

Although there will be other parties approaching the PDP again today, Chamlong said he thinks no progress will be made. The PDP will give details when a decision is reached, he said.

Party Leader Warns Against 'Outsider' Premier

BK2303012792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Mar 92 p A1

[Text] Former Bangkok governor Chamlong Simuang, buoyed by his party's landslide victory in the city, yesterday warned that attempts to hand over the premiership to an "outsider" would lead to a revolt by the people.

Chamlong, whose Phalang Tham Party swept all but four of Bangkok's 35 parliamentary seats, said voters had sent an unmistakeable signal that they wanted the next premier to be an MP.

Speaking to reporters as election returns confirmed Phalang Tham's victory in the city, Chamlong said the military should not try to test what he described as the increasing democratic awareness of the people.

"The public opposition to a nonelected prime minister will grow and grow and will eventually lead to a popular uprising," said Chamlong, who campaigned on the theme that he was ready to take the premiership.

"The premiership is becoming a big issue. I have asked my seniors in the armed forces not to take any chances," said Chamlong, who retired with the rank of major general.

He acknowledged that his party, which won 43 seats in yesterday's election but comprises mostly relatively little-known politicians, would now become a major player in Thai politics.

Phalang Tam's unexpected win in Bangkok came at the expense of the Prachakon Thai Party of Samak Suntharawet which had dominated the city constituencies since 1979. Samak's party won only three seats in Bangkok yesterday, compared with 19 in the 1988 election.

Aphisit Wetchachiwa, a Democrat candidate running in Constituency 6, became the only Democrat to be elected in Bangkok. It was the worst defeat for Thailand's oldest political party since it was humiliated in the 1979 election by the Prachakon Thai Party.

While the Democrats quietly conceded defeat, the Prachakon Thai Party lashed out at Phalang Tham, claiming that the "money factor" helped in its Bangkok victory.

A smiling Chamlong told reporters he believed that the so-called "silent majority" contributed to his party's victory.

"Voters chose people whom they believed to be honest and have good intentions to serve the country," he said.

Chamlong, a devout Buddhist who eats only one meatless meal a day, was elected in Constituency 2 along with two of his party candidates.

Discusses Premiership, Joining Cabinet

BK2303151592 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Interview with Major General Chamlong Simuang, leader of the Palang Dharma Party by unidentified reporters; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Chamlong] The Palang Dharma Party has a policy of solving the country's urgent problems, but to effectively solve these problems the Constitution must be amended as well. We decided at the recent consultation at Thammasat University that the Constitution is to be amended on three issues. Therefore, we can join the government if the other coalition parties have a policy of amending the Constitution. We will not join if the other parties do not have an amendment plan, because we will not be able to solve other problems.

[First Reporter] Who is the most suitable person to be premier?

[Chamlong] We will have to discuss this matter. You told me that Narong Wongwan said he would not accept the premier post. I have no confirmation on that. The problem now is that the groups of four parties wishing to form the government each have about the same number of supporting members of Parliament [MP's], about half the total number of MP's, which is not enough for stability.

[Second Reporter] What qualities are you looking for in the parties joining the government?

[Chamlong] The Palang Dharma Party has no conditions, but we want to know who will be the premier and what will be the policy.

[Second Reporter] How soon before a settlement can be reached?

[Chamlong] I cannot say, but I hope today or tomorrow. However, it is not that urgent an issue because the Anan government is performing as the caretaker cabinet. Personally, as of now no one is able to say specifically who has the authority to propose appointment of the prime minister. Therefore, I suggest that we wait a bit longer until we have elected the House president. The House president and the chairman of the NPKC can then consult about who has the authority to propose appointment of the prime minister. There will be no error in the appointment this way.

Army Secretary: Suchinda Qualified To Be Premier

BK2303161992 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Army Secretary Major General Chaturit Phromsakha Na Sakon Nakhon, referring to reported support by the Armed Forces for Supreme Commander General Suchinda Khraprayun as a neutral prime minister, said he personally supports Gen. Suchinda, and other soldiers are also ready to support him, but the steps taken must conform to democratic principles. Asked by reporters about the Armed Forces' measures to deal with the opposition to Gen. Suchinda becoming prime minister, Chaturit said there must be principles to which to conform, and these are contained in the Constitution with its clear stipulations. Without principles we have merely different people expressing different views.

Chaturit said the Armed Forces always assess the situation. This is part of security precautions to prevent an untoward situation. If there is a request for action that falls within the Armed Forces' responsibilities and duties, the Armed Forces are always ready to comply. The Armed Forces will only watch but will not become involved. The issue will be left to take its democratic course.

Chaturit said confidently that Gen. Suchinda has the ability to tackle problems associated with the duties of the prime minister.

Pro-Military Parties Agree on Government

BK2403021392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Mar 92 pp A1-2

[Text] The four pro-military parties who make up a slim majority in the elected House signed an agreement on Sunday night to form a coalition government to be headed by an outsider, but news of the move sparked the first public outcry at a students' rally at Sanam Luang last night.

Samakkhitham secretary general Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Thiti Nakonthap yesteday morning called on Gen Suchinda Khaprayun, touching off speculation that he was there to brief the military leader on the results of talks late Sunday night.

Rumours swept the capital that Suchinda had agreed to accept the post of prime minister, prompting academics, students, labour leaders and other prominent individuals to call an urgent meeting for this afternoon to express further opposition to the appointment of a military leader to the premiership.

In the meantime, senior military leaders yesterday came out with strong statements that the entire armed forces was behind the appointment of Suchinda.

Reports that certain high-ranking military officers were directly involved in Sunday night's four-party negotiations sparked the anti-military rally organized by the

Student Federation of Thailand (SFT) at Sanam Luang last night. About 300 people showed up to hear student activists denounce military interference in post-election politics.

This afternoon, the Campaign for Popular Democracy Committee will host a meeting of about 50 academics, SFT leaders, labour activists and others to discuss measures to oppose the attempts to name a military leader to the premiership.

The opponents to the alleged military interference in the House are scheduled to meet at the Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University at 2 pm.

However the military has also taken a stand with Army spokesman Maj Gen Chaturit Promsakha na Sakhon Nakhon telling a news conference that all troops were ready to support Suchinda if he was invited to become prime minister.

Earlier, about 100 army commanders gathered at the army auditorium for what was officially described as a routine meeting yesterday, but turned into a show of support for Suchinda.

Today, a group of air force officers will call on Air Force Commander in Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin to acknowledge "his contributions to the national interest" an air force officer said. Kaset is known to have had a high profile in the negotiations with the Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, Social Action and Prachakon Thai leaders at the guest house of the Royal Thai Air Force late Sunday night.

The coalition government agreed by the Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, Social Action and Prachakon Thai parties would have a combined vote of 191 MPs, but because the majority is regarded as slim, they have agreed to woo the Solidarity (six seats) and Ratsadon (four seats) parties to join them in government.

Thiti, after visiting Suchinda, told a meeting of Samakkhi Tham MPs that the four parties agreed to nominate an "outsider" to the premiership, informed source said.

The political leaders in this camp, Titi was quoted as saying, also agreed that each prospective partner would get a Cabinet post for every six MPs. Samakkhi Tham, the biggest party, won 79 MP seats while Chat Thai, Social Action and Prachakon Thai garnered 74, 31 and seven House seats respectively.

He also told the party MPs that he had put forward the demand that, as the biggest party, Samakkhi Tham should be given the post of House speaker. Party sources said that three senior party members are candidates for the top House post—Loei MP Gen Athit Kamlang-ek, Lamphang MP Buntheng Thongsawasdi and Nakhon Sawan MP Sawat Khamprakob.

Thiti reportedly prefers Gen Athit as House speaker.

But Chat Thai sources said that Chat Thai also wanted the House post, for former House speaker Panja Kesonthong.

Thiti also told the meeting that the party leader, Narong Wongwan, might take over as deputy prime minister or agriculture minister.

The party secretary general also said that the party would seek control over the Education Ministry and the Justice Ministry. "And, if possible, we would try to bargain for control over the industry portfolios as well," Thiti said.

Political sources also said that at the Sunday night negotiations, the military mediator rejected a proposal by Prachakon Thai Party leader Samak Suntharawet that his party take over the Communications Ministry.

The military mediator, according to the sources, said that the communications post should be given to Chat Thai Party leader ACM Sombun Rahong because his party was much bigger than Prachakon Thai. He suggested that Samak take over as deputy prime minister.

The Chat Thai negotiators also reportedly demanded control over the Industry Ministry.

Samak, at a meeting with party MPs yesterday afternoon, said that his party had no choice but to accept the post of deputy prime minister because it was a small party.

Samak also told the MPs that he floated a proposal that a political party leader should head the new coalition government. The military mediator, however, rejected the idea out of hand, saying that Narong would be an easy target for the opposition parties if he became prime minister.

SAP sources, meanwhile, said that party leader Montri Phongphanit demanded at the negotiations that his party take control over the Commerce Ministry.

After a gathering of army commanders yesterday, the army spokesman told a news conference that Suchinda's subordinates all wanted him to be the new prime minister.

"All soldiers are ready to support Gen Suchinda if he is invited to take the premiership," said Maj Gen Chaturit Promsakha Na Sakhon Nakhon.

Chaturit added that the army would not cross the line in politically supporting Suchinda.

"We will give him legitimate support in accordance with right principles," he said.

The spokesman's statement added more weight to growing speculation that Suchinda would leave the military to take the helm of a coalition government.

Suchinda, also army commander in chief, is said to be under growing pressure in the armed forces to leave his powerful positions in order to allow his subordinates to rise to higher posts.

Parties Stand Firm in Pledge

BK2403020192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Mar 92 pp A1-2

[Text] The New Aspiration, Democrat and Phalang Tham parties yesterday stood firm on their pledge not to join a coalition government led by the military.

A significant reaffirmation of the pledge came from New Aspiration whose supporters feared the party might face internal pressure to make a last minute about-face.

New Aspiration secretary general Phisan Munsatsathon, who wields considerable power in the party, dismissed concerns his faction might push for a place in the coalition regardless of who was named as prime minister.

"Our stand remains the same: The prime minister must come from the election," he said.

Phisan criticized reported attempts to install Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun as the next chief executive. Suchinda, trying to calm down growing anti-military sentiment among the public, told a televised press conference last November he would not accept the premiership.

"If a soldier says one thing and does otherwise, he is shameless and should not be called a man," Phaisan said. "And if that ever happens, I will laugh my head off."

He said New Aspiration was ready to take an opposition role if the new government was not led by an MP.

"We are ready to be in the opposition and work with any party. We will have a lot of fun, " Phaisan said.

The New Aspiration, Democrat and Phalang Tham parties command a total of 157 MPs which could make them a formidable opposition bloc.

Phalang Tham leader Chamlong Simuang warned on Sunday that if the military continued to try to dictate the course of politics, it would face a popular uprising.

Chamlong yesterday repeated the next prime minister must be an MP if his party was to be included in the new coalition government.

Chamlong, whose party's landslide poll victory in Bangkok was partly attributed to his tough anti-military stand, said he had been approached by those holding talks on the formation of new government.

The talks reportedly involved the Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, Social Action and Prachakon Thai parties which have declared they could accept a "neutral" person as government leader.

"I have been approached with some proposals," Chamlong said.

He refused to give details, but added: "Phalang Tham can't join a government led by an outsider."

The former Bangkok governor emphasized Phalang Tham wanted to work with parties which had the same policies, particularly as far as the Constitution was concerned.

Phalang Tham has vowed to push for amendments to the charter in order to curb the power of the non-elected Senate. The New Aspiration and Democrat parties are also opposed to the Senate's power to oust the government.

Outspoken Democrat MP Trairong Suwankhiri indirectly warned Suchinda yesterday against assuming the premier-ship.

"If the outsider is smart, he will stay away. Otherwise he will be doomed and his reputation, which took a long time to build, will be destroyed all because of an illegitimate passion," the Songkhla MP said.

Trairong said the Democrat Party would not make any move regarding the formation of new government.

"We believe they may approach us but we won't make any first move," he said.

New Aspiration spokesman Chaturon Chaisaeng warned Suchinda, who is also army commander in chief, that he might lose military support if he left the armed forces to assume the post of chief executive.

The Constitution stipulates government officials must first resign from their posts if they are to take up political positions.

"If Gen Suchinda wants to be prime minister, he will have to be an ex-army chief first," Chaturon said. "And if he becomes an ex-army chief, he will soon turn into an ex-prime minister.

Suchinda is said to have been under pressure to leave the military to pave the way for the promotion of his subordinates.

Some observers say if Suchinda left the military service, he could count on the loyalty of his subordinates led by Deputy Army Commander in Chief Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, his brother in-law who is expected to rise to the top after Suchinda's departure.

But other analysts pointed to Suchinda's predecessor, New Aspiration leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut,

whose relationship with former loyal "brothers" turned sour soon after he left the military to pursue a political career.

"Big Su [Suchinda] should lie down and think again," Chaturon said.

Samakkhi Tham Working Out Formula

BK2403084592 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Narong Wongwan, leader of the Samakkhi Tham Party, granted an interview to reporters on the forming of a government, saying that consultations have already been made between the party and the Chat Thai Party, Social Action Party, and Prachakon Thai Party. He said that most of these parties won similar total numbers of MP seats in the general election.

On the selection of a person to the prime minister's post, Narong said that the issue is still being discussed among the parties and for the time being he could not say who will be the next prime minister. However, a pledge has been made among these parties on the selection of a person to become prime minister that it must follow democratic procedures. This means that the president of the House of Representatives must be selected first before appointing the prime minister and the Cabinet, respectively.

To a question asking if it is necessary that the prime minister come solely from the results of the general election, Narong said the Constitution does not have such a limitation.

Asked if a government to be formed by four political parties will have stability, the Samakkhi Tham Party leader said that he thinks that as it will constitute a majority of votes, which exceeds half of the total votes in the House of Representatives, the coalition government should then be sufficiently stable. Howver, if necessary, more political parties would be accepted to join the Cabinet, he said.

Narong said he thought that within a week from now it could be concluded how many parties will form the government. Concerning this, thorough consideration will have to be given as to how various parties can collaborate with each other. Narong concluded by saying he has not met with the National Peace-Keeping Council on the formation of the government.

Pro-Military Politicians 'Spineless'

BK2403023592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Mar 92 p A8

[Editorial: "Battle Lines Drawn in Breakpoint for Democracy"]

[Text] It looked more and more likely yesterday that Army Commander Gen Suchinda Khrapayun would renege on his promise and become the next premier. This is most regrettable. If he accepts the role, Gen Suchinda will fail the integrity test even before he is installed as the leader of the new government. He could not keep his word given in a press conference last November that neither he nor anyone else on the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) would accept the premiership under any circumstances.

The four parties that appear likely to form Gen Suchinda's coalition government—Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, Social Action and Prachakon Thai—share one thing in common: they have little compunction in swallowing their pride and accepting a non-MP as the chief executive just as long as they can be in the government. The shame is that they have not even pretended to fight for the nomination of one of their leaders for the premiership.

When the initial poll results became known on eletion night, key men of these four parties scurried to consult with NPKC chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong and air force chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin on the selection of a new premier and the formation of a new government. Such abasement before the military leaders was unbecoming of important political leaders in a democratic system. It sent the generals the errant message that they could continue to interfere in the parliamentary system at will.

These spineless politicians are not worthy of public trust, much less support, as they selfishly seek ministerial positions in the new government. They have chosen to betray the democracy-loving people of Thailand to help the NPKC maintain control over the government—their reward being Cabinet posts.

Conspicuously, several key military figures are openly espousing that Gen Suchinda lead the expected four-party coalition government. They seem to want him to quit their ranks as soon as possible, yet they appear to give little thought to what will happen to him if he breaks his promises to the Thai nation and takes over the premiership.

Waiting to succeed Gen Suchinda as the army chief is none other than his deputy and brother-in-law, Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi. Gen Itsaraphong will soon conclude his term as interior minister in the outgoing Anan administration. His subordinates may not want to see him return to the relatively inactive job of deputy army chief. This may be because the appointment of Gen Itsaraphong as the all-powerful army chief will enable many of them to get special promotions.

But in spite of the pressure on him to resign from the Army, Gen Suchinda can still choose to turn down any "invitation" from the four key party leaders to lead their government coalition. He still has the honourable option of remaining as supreme commander until his mandatory retirement from the military and, in doing so, avoiding standing in anybody else's way or interfering in national politics. The choice is completely Gen Suchinda's. If he elects to become the next premier—and

unfortunately he seemed thus inclined as of yesterday—he will bear the responsibility of disrupting our fragile democratic system.

It may be timely to warn Gen Suchinda that he is making a grave mistake if he thinks he can count on the four key parties and his subordinates in the Army to back him up in government. The danger is real, and not perceived, that his political and military support could vanish overnight, leaving him a captive leader with no real supporters to turn to for help. A brilliant military strategist like him ought to realize that he cannot take the risk of putting his future in somebody else's hands.

As for the four parties who are vehemently opposed to the new premier being drawn from the ranks of the military—New Aspiration, Democrat, Phalang Tham and Solidarity—now is their golden opportunity to show strength of unity and mobilize their supporters nationwide to stand up to military intervention and protect parliamentary democracy. The nomination of Gen Suchinda for the next premiership must be opposed by all means under the law before it is too late.

Phalang Tham party leader Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang, in particular, has the responsibility to give correct political guidance to Bangkok's "silent majority" who turned out in force on Sunday and swept his party to a thought provoking domination of the capital's constituencies—with 32 of the 35 House seats. For too long military leaders have dismissed this "silent majority" as apathetic and apoiitical. No better time exists to prove them wrong once and for all.

In the all-too-real battle to return to proper parliamentary democracy, we, the democracy-loving people, can not afford to lose. Democracy is rule by the people, not by military usurpers and their spineless political cronies in the House and in the unelected Senate.

Samakkhi Tham Wants House Speaker's Post

BK2403024592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Mar 92 p A2

[Text] The Samakkhi Tham Party, which won the most House seats in Sunday's election, wants the post of House speaker, party secretary-general Thiti Nakhonthap said yesterday.

"The party which has the most MPs should get the post of House speaker," Thiti said.

The pro-military Samakkhi Tham won 79 seats in the House of Representatives, followed by its ally the Chat Thai party, with 74.

The lower House has to convene first to vote on the position of speaker. Traditionally, an MP from the party which controls the most House seats is unanimously elected House speaker.

The newly-elected House is expected to open its first session soon. Usually, the most senior MP, in terms of age, acts as House speaker for the first session to allow for voting procedure to go ahead.

Thiti said his party should have the right to become the core party in the next coaliton because it had won the most seats in the House.

He said he wanted the next government to be formed as soon as possible.

"If possible, I would like it to be finalized by tomorrow (today)," Thiti said.

But he said Samakkhi Tham had not discussed the matter in detail with other parties which might become partners in the coalition.

"We have not gone far in considering who should be given the post of prime minister and other ministerial posts," Thiti said.

Thiti said it would not be unconstitutional to give the post of prime minister to an outsider.

Samakkhi Tham Party chief adviser Gen Athit Kamlangek, meanwhile, said no decision had been made on how many political parties would participate in the coalition.

Athit, who won in Loei province in Sunday's election, said even though Samakkhi won the highest number of votes, the results showed little difference among the major political parties.

There has been speculation that the two parties are likely to form a coalition government with Social Action and Prachakon Thai parties that won 31 and seven seats, respectively.

Athit, asked about the possiblity of his party joining NAP, said the matter had not been discussed yet.

NAP won 72 seats in the election and its leader, Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, has vowed not to form a coalition government with political parties which support an outsider to become the next prime minister.

Athit said his party would initially consider an elected MP as a candidate for the country's top executive post. He added that there must be someone among the 360 MPs who is qualified to be premier.

On the question of how many votes a coalition government should be able to muster, Athit said they should be slightly more than 200. Otherwise, there would be some instability in running the country, he added.

He said Samakkhi Tham and its allies had among them a total 191 House seats.

Commander: Military To Help Samakkhi Tham Party

BK2403031392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] The military will give a free hand to the Samakkhi Tham Party, which won the most seats in Parliament, to

take the lead in forming a coalition government, Army Chief-of-Staff Gen Wirot Saengsanit said yesterday.

The candidate for prime minister will depend on the STP, he said.

"If the party can form the government, then it should be Khun Narong Wongwan, the party leader, who should be prime minister. But he must have the courage to take the responsibility."

As the "core" party, the STP should be given a chance to set up the government, he said, adding Press reports had the STP negotiating with the Social Action, Chat Thai and Prachakon Thai parties.

There appeared to be two camps among the successful parties, he said.

Gen Wirot said he had no idea whether the process would be complicated and delayed because he is not a member of any party. He did not want to guess.

Asked whether Phalang Tham's landslide victory in Bangkok indicated public support for a prime minister who is an elected MP, Gen Wirot shot back that such an assumption was made as if voters in the provinces were not Thai citizens.

Asked whether the military would support Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun as the next premier, Gen Wirot declined to give a direct answer.

"We, the military don't have any idea. This is the business of political parties," he said.

Gen Suchinda yesterday presided over the signing at the Army Auditorium of an insurance contract for soldiers. But he refused to meet the Press.

At the end of the ceremony, journalists who had been anxiously waiting at the auditorium to interview the Army chief were told by Army officials that there was no interview and also they were to leave the auditorium.

Daily Urges Democratic Selection of Premier

BK2303025792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Mar 92 p A12

[Editorial: "New Premier Must Be Chosen Democratically"]

[Text] The five parties that won the largest number of House seats yesterday now have the crucial responsibility of forming a working government without undue delay. As was predicted earlier, at least three of these parties will be needed to form a coalition government.

As of last night there were two most-likely formulas. One, the three top winners—Samakkhi Tham, New Aspiration [NAP] and Chat Thai—would band together, or two (less likely but certainly not outside the realm of possibility), Samakkhi Tham would join up with New Aspiration, Democrat, Phalang Tham, and Solidarity. Under Thai democratic tradition, it is correct to let the first-place winner, Samakkhi Tham (which came first, with 80 seats in unofficial results as of press time last night), take the lead in organizing a coalition. In the first formula, however, New Aspiration (which came second, 73 seats) would practically become a junior partner to Samakkhi Tham, and this may not be what NAP leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut wishes to see.

Chawalit's Dream of PM [Prime Minister]

The ex-army chief has always seen himself as a top contender for the next premiership. The poor performance of his party in the South (winning only 12 of 44 seats) and its complete failure in Bangkok cost the NAP first place this time. The unofficial outcome showed that Chawalit was indeed only day-dreaming when he kept talking about winning 181-200 of the 360 House seats to form a single-party government. Chawalit's dream of becoming the next premier is just as unlikely now given the results.

How NAP would get along with the two coalition partners is another big question. Both Samakkhi Tham and Chat Thai are known to be extremely sensitive to military influences, especially that of air force chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin. Last night Chat Thai leader ACM Sombun Rahong rushed to consult ACM Kaset at his residence following Phalang Tham party leader Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang's remark that his party was approached by Samakkhi Tham on Saturday about joining a coaliton. Incidentally, Sombun was personally involved in forming Samakkhi Tham before he was invited to lead Chat Thai, replacing deposed Premier Gen Chatchai Chunhawan.

The second formula was a surprise as Samakkhi Tham had never shown any indication of a possible break with Chat Thai. For Samakkhi Tham to consider teaming up with the Democrat Party and Phalang Tham is also astonishing. The later two, like NAP, are adamant that the next premier must be chosen by and from MPs; whereas Samakkhi Tham was, and maybe still is, in favour of a military leader from the National Peacekeeping Council—preferably army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun or ACM Kaset.

Another possibility which NAP will likely look into is for it to lead in a coalition of five parties (NAP, Democrat, Phalang Tham, Social Action and Solidarity). They would have nearly 200 House seats, quite enough to put together a new government led by Chawalit. But how long it could survive would depend on the military-dominated Senate, which can use its 270 votes in a no-confidence debate against a prime minister and his Cabinet.

Whatever the formula, all the political leaders must make an effort to select one of their own to be the next premier. This is their responsibility, and this is how parliamentary democracy should work. The leaders of

NAP, Democrat, Phalang Tham and Solidarity are particularly obliged to fulfill their separate "social contracts" with the voters to support only a premier who is chosen from the House.

The four parties clearly reiterated their common stand last night, saying they would not back any "outsiders" (non-MPs) for the premiership. This was the right thing to do because too few political leaders care about keeping their word or living up to their supporters' expectations these days.

Judging from the landslide victories of Phalang Tham in Bangkok and Democrat in the South (Democrats won 27 of the 44 seats in a region where voters' political sophistication is as high as in Bangkok), it is safe to say that educated public opinion is clearly backing these two parties in opposing the NPKC's attempt to name a premier of its own choice after the election. The NPKC must recognize this message and back down. Leave the political leaders alone so that they can discuss how to form a new government among themselves.

NPKC's Last Chance

This is the NPKC's last chance to salvage its image before it is disbanded.

It is also Gen Suchinda's last chance to keep his word given in a press confercence last November that neither he nor anyone else from the NPKC would become the next premier.

The parliamentary democratic process must be allowed to function the way it is supposed to. Military intervention in naming the new premier now would shatter public trust in this system. For the military, this would be a mistake of proportions only surpassed by its coup on Feb 23, 1991.

Assembly Passes 30 Laws in Last Session

BK2103014392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Mar 92 pp A1-A2

[Text] The National Assembly rushed through 30 pieces of legislation in its closing session yesterday, bringing to 248 the number of laws it promulgated during the 12-month tenure which officially ends tomorrow.

Bills passed by the interim legislature included one authorizing the expropriation of land for the construction of the Bangklo-Chaeng Wattana expressway and another requiring motorists to carry third-party insurance.

Other bills enacted by the assembly were routine legislation concerned primarily with the restructuring of government agencies and amendments to ministerial regulations.

Among significant government-proposed bills that lapsed because of the time constraint or because they had been moved down the government's priority list was one granting autonomy to 16 state universities and another to decriminalize prostitution.

Some 200 of the 268 military-installed assemblymen attended the last session that started at 9 am and lasted eight hours.

Conspicuous absentees included military chief Suchinda Khraprayun, air force chief Kaset Rotchananin and Interior Minister Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi.

The assembly voted overwhelmingly to defer to the new government the decision on the 18 pieces of legislation to separate state universities from the government bureaucracy, reasoning that more time was needed to consider such an important matter.

The bills have already been scrutinized by the assembly's committee on education and cultural affairs.

University Affairs Minister Kasem Suwannakun called the assembly's decision a "major setback" to higher learning instrutions as well as to the country's educational system in general.

"This is a major loss to the people who think state universities could do more in national development," Kasem said.

Assembly President Ukrit Mongkonnawin told reporters after the assembly meeting yesterday that he was proud of the assembly's efficiency and independence in law-making throughout its term.

"The government must be able to convince the assembly of the advantages of individual pieces of legislation to successfully enact them," Ukrit said.

Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun in his address to the National Assembly thanked assemblymen for their cooperation in promulgating government-proposed laws.

The prime minister did not go into details of what his government had achieved during its more than 12 months in power but said it had succeeded in upholding Thailand's standing in the international community and laying down the groundwork for long-term national development as well as alleviating immediate problems facing the country.

"We (the Anan Administration and the National Assembly) have honestly performed our tasks to the best of our ability although we were not elected by the people," he said.

He was referring to the Feb 23 coup by the National Peacekeeping Council which brought his government to power.

"Now that the National Assembly and the government have accomplished what they set out to do, I would like to call on people from all walks of life to contribute towards the country's democratization process," Anan said.

Vietnam

Do Muoi Discusses 'Mass Agitation' Work

BK2003153992 Hanoi VNA in English 1437 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 20—Party General Secretary Do Muoi has urged mass agitation workers of the party to enhance their knowledge in economic and social management. He was speaking at the third congress (second round) of the party organization in the mass agitation institutions which met here from March 16-18.

The congress noted that the Fatherland Front and its affiliated mass organizations have made active contributions to gradually abolishing the bureaucratic mechanism in economic management, and strengthening the people's confidence in the renovation policy of the party.

However, the congress remarked, the party cadres engaged in this work in the localities are deficient both quantitatively and qualitatively. One of the reasons is that the local party committees and administrations have not paid due attention to this work, which led to close coordination between the administration and mass organizations.

Addressing the congress, Do Muoi said: "Mass agitation workers of the party must enhance their knowledge in different areas, particularly in economic and social management. They must inquire into realities and encourage people to enrich themselves in accordance with law, thus reducing the number of poor households and areas."

Do Muoi asked party organiztions at each public office to effectively help the party work out judicious policies and inspect their implementation.

He stressed: "More attention must be paid to this question. Along with leading the political organizations, it is necessary to broaden socioeconomic organizations, diversify the activities of the mass organizations and deeply understand the aspiration of all strata of people. To this end, it is necessary to carry out surveys in many fields regarding each strata of the population."

"At present, job procurement is a very pressing task. All mass organizations must join efforts with the local party organizations and administrations to create more jobs and improve the people's living conditions. But the fight against poverty must be closely associated with the improvement of the people's cultural standard, first and foremost the fight against illiteracy and malnutrition. There are practical and concrete issues which lie at the center of our people's concern. There are also the strategic objectives of our party up to the year 2000."

Second Round Party Congresses Hold Meetings

Do Muoi, Vu Oanh at Central Bloc

BK2403074792 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] From 16 to 19 March 1992, the party organization of the Central Bloc of Civic Action Agencies held its third second-round congress of delegates. Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and Comrades Vu Oanh, Political Bureau member, and Truong My Hoa, secretary of the party Central Committee, attended the congress.

Comrade Nguyen Tam Ngo, secretary of the bloc party committee, read a report on the party organization's tasks over the past few years and on the implementation of political duties in various agencies of the bloc, asserting that the attitude and behavior of the party organization members toward unanimously agreeing on the policy and line set forth in the seventh party congress resolution.

The congress asserted the achievements scored by the bloc's party organization over the past five years in performing its assigned function and mission, in firmly maintaining the life activities of party chapters, and in mobilizing cadres and party members to actively participate in construction and the organizations and activities of the front and various mass organizations in the renovation spirit. At the same time, the congress also clearly pointed out the outstanding problems to be solved by the bloc's party organization.

The guidelines, tasks, and objectives of the party organization for the years of 1991-1995 are to develop the intellectual capability of party members and cadres in the entire party organization, join in the renovation process, vigorously accelerate the activities of the front and various mass organizations, participate in the formulation of party policies, and help organize and mobilize the people of all strata to enthusiastically and victoriously implement the socioeconomic tasks in the immediate future and subsequent years.

Addressing the congress, General Secretary Do Muoi warmly commended the Central Civic Action Bloc's party committee, the Fatherland Front, and mass organizations for having considerably contributed to national construction and created conditions for stabilizing the socioeconomic lives of the people.

After reviewing the situation of some policies and positions of our party and state concerning the tasks of the bloc's party organization which aim to successfully implement the seventh party congress resolution, the comrade general secretary stressed some issues in the party organization's leadership task for the forthcoming years. They are the bloc party committee's role of leadership over the mass motivation task under the conditions of a multisectoral economy which requires each cadre and party member to have some standard knowledge in order to apply the policies and resolutions

of the party and state to practical life. At the same time, there must be plans for conducting basic advanced cadre training so as to enable cadres to firmly grasp technology and economic management.

The comrade general secretary stressed the leadership role of party committees and groups, and the improvement of life activities of various grass-roots level party organizations and chapters. It is necessary to renovate the mass motivation task, resolutely rid the party of corrupt, smuggling and bribe-taking components, and build healthy, firm and strong party organizations.

The Civic Action Bloc's party organization should quickly renovate its operating procedures and concentrate on the current pressing issues that are the people's livelihood and jobs for workers.

As a Political Bureau member in charge of the party's civic action task, Comrade Vu Oanh made a statement to contribute some suggestions to the activities of the bloc party organization. He stressed: The mass motivation task is actually the development and protection of the party and mass organization which is at the same time the task of defending the people's administration. As a result, we must stand on the people's side, protect their legitimate interests, and launch a broad and profound revolutionary movement of the people in order to implement the party lines and policies and comply with the state law and, on this basis, to develop the party, the administration and mass organizations firmly and strongly.

We should continue to renovate the operating procedures of mass organizations, look toward grassroots level, harmoniously blend with the people, grasp their aspirations, remove difficulties, respond to the legitimate material and spiritual interests of the people, and intensify the relationship between the party and the people.

The congress elected the bloc party organization's third executive committee composed of 15 members.

Vo Chi Cong Visits Bloc No 1

BK2003114392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] The party organization of Bloc No. 1 of the central organs held its second round third congress on 17-19 March in Hanoi to review past work and discuss orientations and tasks for its next term. Attending the congress were more than 250 delegates representing 2,886 party members in the bloc.

The delegates were very elated to welcome Comrade Vo Chi Cong, adviser to the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State, who attended and addressed the congress. Also attending the congress were comrades Do Quang Thang, member of the CPV Central Committee; Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly; Nguyen Huu Tho, vice chairman of the Council of State; and many other members of the CPV Central Committee.

The party organization of Bloc No. 1 is composed of 14 party organizations and chapters. They are staff organs specializing in studies and research to help support tasks of the party Central Committee and the government. Members of the bloc include 24 comrades from the party Central Committee and more than 50 cadres who are directly subordinated to the party Central Committee Political Bureau. Many of them hold important positions at party and state agencies.

During the past term, party organizations and chapters of the bloc, as well as heads of its affiliated agencies, did a good job in educating and mobilizing cadres, party members, workers, and personnel to satisfactorily carry out many tasks. They helped the party Central Committee to implement resolution of the Sixth CPV Congress, triumphantly made preparations for the Seventh CPV Congress, and helped perfect its resolution in various aspects, thereby greatly contributing to the nation's renovation undertaking. The party-building committee and agencies of the bloc have served many meetings of the party Central Committee and helped the party Central Committee Political Bureau, the National Assembly, the Council of State, and the Counicl of Ministers in the formulation of resolutions and documents on various important issues related to the economic, political, and social domains.

Moreover, the entire cadres and party members of the bloc have also striven to firmly grasp the situation, provided the leadership with important information, prepared draft projects, and helped disseminate the new party concepts, thereby effectively serving leading agencies of the party and state.

Vu Oanh at Ha Tay

BK2003135992 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] On 16-18 March, the Ha Tay Province party committee held its seventh second-round congress. There were 318 delegates representing more than 70,000 party members in the province attending the congress. Comrade Vu Oanh, member of the party Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee and many leading comrades of central, Hanoi, and Hoa Binh Province's organs and offices attended the congress.

The delegates focused their discussion on the Ha Tay socioeconomic situation during the years 1986-1991. They also discussed important measures to successfully implement the socioeconomic duties in the coming years.

During the 1986-1991 period, with the implementation of the Sixth National Party Congress resolution, many changes occurred in Ha Tay, especially an increase in the production of food, an improvement of people's living

standards, the formation of a new structure in economic management, progress with democratic activities, and political stability. However, many shortcomings still existed—the small amount of goods production and export commodities, low savings, hardships in certain parts of the public, poor compliance with laws and regulations, and the spread of negativism.

Learning from these experiences, the congress outlined major 1992-1995 socioeconomic targets for the province. It plans to further increase food and commodity production and decrease the birth rate by 0.1 percent to lower the population growth rate. It also plans to reduce unemployment and gradually build new rural areas and a civilized and ordered life-style in towns and suburbs. At the moment, in order to comprehensively develop agriculture, the province is to concentrate its investment on extensive farming and multiple-rice cropping, application of advanced techniques, and planting with new rice strains. Together with agriculturical development, the province is to increase the exploitation of existing natural resources, electricity, and labor force for enhanced production of consumer goods, traditional commodities, and export goods. The province is also to gradually build material bases for production, living at the same time with the renovation of management to exploit the potential of different economic elements, encouraging them to expand business.

Regarding culture and society, the congress stressed the task of building new rural areas; constructing a civilized and ordered life-style in towns and suburbs; and creating prosperous, happy families and clean, peaceful villages and streets.

On behalf of the party Political Bureau and Secretariat, Comrade Vu Oanh stated that Ha Tay is an agricultural province with high population density in a small area, and that it has a poor infrastructure. However, it has advantages in that the local people are industrious, used to extensive farming and multiple cropping, and have many valuable traditional handicrafts. The province has set up many fine examples in different stages of national construction and protection. It is close to the national capital. Therefore, under the new economic management structure, Ha Tay should motivate and organize people for more efficient production. Concerning agriculturical production, it should combine extensive farming and multiple cropping with the plantation of high-yield strains and advanced techniques to increase commodity values and improve plantation cycles and livestock breeding. It should also pay attention to food processing industries so that the peasants' commodities can be purchased quickly.

The party committees at all levels must renew their activities, leading the government, mass organizations, and social offices to be close to the public's practical life. All must be for the people, taking care of the people's life, helping the people observe laws, building a prosperous and beautiful Ha Tay, and successfully implementing the Seventh National Party Congress resolution.

Le Quang Dao, Do Muoi Address Assembly Session

BK2403055392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] This morning, 24 March, at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi, the 11th Session of the Eighth National Assembly was solemnly opened. Before the opening, the deputies visited President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum.

Attending the opening were Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the party Central Committee; Vo Chi Cong, adviser to the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State; Pham Van Dong, adviser to the party Central Committee; and Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers. Also attending the opening were members of the diplomatic corps in Hanoi and journalists from domestic and international news agencies, newspapers, and radio and television stations.

National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao delivered the opening address. He said that the 11th session is the last meeting of the Eighth National Assembly. At this meeting the National Assembly is given an historic task by the entire people to pass the revised Constitution of the SRV. The National Assembly will also pass the revised Law on the Organization of the National Assembly and the revised Law on the Election of National Assembly deputies. The National Assembly will examine and decide on some other important issues.

After that, the deputies listened to an important speech on the amendment of the Constitution by Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and a report of the Constitutional Amendment Committee on the amendment of the 1980 Constitution by Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State and the Constitutional Amendment Committee.

In tonight's 1800 newscast, we will report the opening session of the Eighth National Assembly and you are invited to listen to it. This afternoon, the deputies will hold group discussions.

Radio Talk on Session

BK2403032092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 20 Mar 92

["'Talk of the Week' about the coming session of the Vietnamese National Assembly"]

[Text] The Vietnam National Assembly will meet in mid-March. This is the last session of the Eighth Legislature and elections to the National Assembly's Ninth Legislature will be carried out in a few months.

There have been considerable reforms within the Eighth Legislature concerning the ways and contents of this session and members of the Council of Ministers have answered many questions about the branches they are in charge of. These changes, which have been reported by the mass media, are a great encouragement to voters.

The Eighth Legislature is also the one which adopted the basic decrees concerning state control. Their banner code, the Law on Agricultural Taxes, and laws on housing, land, communications and transport have great impact on every social activity. Laws on foreign investment in Vietnam, on litigation and on aviation have helped Vietnam boost its relations with the outside world while it undergoes its renovation process.

At the coming session the National Assembly will adopt the amended draft constitution, the fourth one in the past 46 years, for building and defending the country. After each amendment the constitution becomes more suitable to the concrete situation of the country at different stages of history. The fourth constitution, which will shortly be adopted, is called the constitution of renovation. It addresses the basic issues of the national economy, politics and the rights and obligations of citizens. The draft constitution is being made public for people to study, discuss and make suggestions. Millions of suggestions have been sent to the committee for the draft constitution. Ho Chi Minh City is leading in this campaign with more than half a million suggestions because it is a city with the biggest number of population. People in other cities and towns throughout the country have also contributed effective suggestions to make the draft constitution the most suitable one at the present stage of the renovation.

Vu Oanh Attends Fatherland Front Conference

BK2303062592 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] In Hanoi on 10-12 March, the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee held its fifth conference under the direction of its chairman Nguyen Huu Tho. Attending the conference were Vu Oanh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Political Bureau; Bui Thien Ngo, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of interior; Truong My Hoa, member of the party Central Committee and deputy chairman of the Vietnam Women's Union; and representatives of sectors and branches at the central level.

During its three-day sitting, the conference heard many ideas and viewpoints contributed by delegates to the VFF's report on its 1991 activities and its tasks for 1992, the draft amendments to the constitution, the draft bill on the revised law on National Assembly elections, and the draft bill on consultation and momination of VFF candidates to run for the National Assembly elections.

Regarding the VFF program of action, many delegates suggested that more attention should be paid to ethnic minorities and religious groups and to preserving and developing the fine national traditions. Many said that efforts should be made to strengthen coordination between the VFF and state functional agencies to oppose corruption and violations of the people's democratic rights. Some delegates proposed concrete measures aimed at strengthening activities of the VFF and other mass organizations, promoting relationship between the VFF and the party and administration and between the VFF and its member organizations, institutionalizing the VFF authority and duty to participate in managing state agencies and developing socioeconomic situation, ensuring the people's rights to inspect activities of state organizations, particularly in the upcoming general elections of the Ninth National Assembly to make sure that it is carried out in an authentic democratic fashion and in accordance with the law.

The conference welcomed the party Central Committee's nomination of comrade Vu Oanh, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau, to join the VFF Central Committee. The conference unanimously elected comrade Vu Oanh as member of the VFF presidium.

Addressing the conference, Comrade Vu Oanh expressed his delight in representing the CPV as a member of the VFF Central Committee. On behalf of the party Central Committee, he hailed the conference for contributing many ideas to the party and state activities, especially in the socioeconomic management domain, in amending the constitution and the law on the National Assembly elections, and in implementing the Seventh CPV Congress resolution. He asserted the important role and position of the VFF and its member organizations in the current political system. He expressed the hope that the VFF will continue to develop achievements made, together with the party and state, to make new achievements in the renovation undertaking. He said that efforts to renovate the political system are aimed at enhancing the party strength and its leadership role, and at promoting the effectiveness of state agencies, the VFF, and other mass organizations, thereby helping to developing their dynamism and creativity, improving the political system, and enhancing the combined strength to accelerate the renovation undertaking.

In his closing speech, Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho stressed results of the conference and commended delegates for their efforts and identity of views on various issues raised at the conference.

Doan Khue Addresses Army Political Conference

BK2303152792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] In Hanoi on 9-12 March, the Vietnam People's Army [VPA] General Political Department held a conference to study and firmly grasp the Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Congress guideline on cultural and artistic work of the Army. Attending the conference were General Doan Khue, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and deputy secretary of the Military Commission of the party Central Committee cum minister of national defense; Tran Hoan, member of the party Central Committee and minister of culture, information, and sport; and Huu

Tho, member of the party Central Committee and deputy head of the party Central Committee Ideology and Culture Department.

Senior Lieutenant General Dang Vu Hiep directed the conference. Delegates spent time discussing main contents on culture and arts stipulated in documents of the Seventh CPV Congress as well as the objectives and work in the cultural field of the Armed Forces for the 1992-95 period. They also appraised activities of the Armed Forces in this regard during the past period.

Addressing the conference, General Doan Khue, after commending units for their efforts in carrying out cultural and artistic work, said: Those who are responsible for cultural and artistic work in the army must firmly grasp the party concepts in this field while striving to firmly maintain their political and ideological stand, formulate a concrete program of action, consistently enhance the quality of cultural and artistic work, improve the spiritual and cultural life of the Army, resolutely oppose decadent culture, and build a healthy social life in grass-roots units.

Pham Van Khai Banking Conference Speech

BK1903121192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Announcer-read speech by Phan Van Khai, council of ministers vice chairman, delivered at the recent conference of bank directors to review past tasks; place and date not given]

[Text] In 1991, our country experienced various acute difficulties and ordeals. Although the situation developed more complicated than our prediction, we have firmly maintained and saved our economy from facing major upheavals while making progress in some aspects. The renovation undertaking in our country has continued to score important achievements, thus bringing about a very significant result.

Generally speaking, the banking sector has made great positive effort in developing the country and has scored remarkable achievements in many aspects, especially during the last months of 1991. Although the inflation rate in 1991 was not reduced as expected, we could slow down the gold and dollar fever and stop the spiralling prices of goods. Regarding cash, despite difficulties late last year, we have made great efforts in meeting urgent requirements to settle payments for civil servants, social allowances for wounded soldiers, scholarships, and salary for members of the Armed Forces. We successfully minimized the issuing of bank notes and contributed to stabilizing prices in late 1991 and during the lunar new year period, thus restoring the people's confidence in the banking sector. Moreover, the sector has taken further steps to eliminate subsidies through credits by readjusting the rate of interest and enhancing the responsibility of economic units to help them effectively and economically use capital. The sector has also made initial progress in fixing market prices, established two foreign exhange centers, further improved foreign currencies management in accordance with Council of Ministers Chairman's Decision No. 377. These measures have helped stop the steep climb of gold and the U.S. dollar.

The banking sector has begun providing credits for investment to peasant households to help them increase agricultual production, especially in key areas of the Mekong River Delta. The sector has also coordinated with sectors concerned to settle debts and resolve shortage in capital for a number of production and business establishments.

While making this progress, the banking sector last year supplemented and perfected its transaction mechanism, continued to improve its organization, and trained and forged its cadres to effectively carry out the renovation undertaking.

Besides these achievements, the sector also experienced shortcomings and weaknesses in various aspects, including the slow progress in the struggle agaisnt inflation in 1991. To curb inflation and stabilize economic sitution, we need various effective measures, close coordination among sectors, and a concrete policy on monetary.

It is necessary to mention here that as a sector taking responsibility before the Council of Ministers on matters related to the management of currencies, the banking sector thus far has not been able to neither formulate a fundamental monetary policy nor establish appropriate apparatuses to effectively support the multisectorial commodity economy in accordance with the market mechanism under the state management so as to contribute to stabilizing the situation, while showing confusion in the effort to curb inflation.

Requirements in capital and cash for the national economy are great. In other words, we are in the shortage of capital and cash, while the mobilization of capital and foreign currencies from economic components at home and abroad has been poor. We failed to effectively rotate capital to develop production. The volume of idle money and foreign currencies at the bank is enormous, while requirements of capital for production and business have not been fully met.

I would like to say that in its activities, the banking sector has not actively tried to attract more customers and really provided services for them, while maintaining such practices as subsidies, authoritarianism, corruption, and negativism. The sector's settlement work has been cumbersome and obsolete, thus causing obstacle to loan granting, a slow down in rotating capital, and less effectiveness in investment. Moreover, such phenomena as usurping capital, prolonged payment of due debts, and loss of property are still prevalent. Efforts to provide guidances and to implement a number of policies on interfering to the gold and U.S. dollar market, which were carried out extensively in the initial stage, have caused a prolonged high price of gold and U.S. dollar.

Granting of loans to nongovernmental sector in cities has not been carried out effectively, while cash management has not been improved, and so forth.

1992 and the ensuing years is a decisive period in which we must successfully carry out the renovation undertaking, thereby creating favorable condition and strength for development. The party Central Committee second plenum's resolution has set key tasks for the 1992-95 period including efforts to resolutely curb inflation, stabilize and improve the financial and monetary situation, and create favorable condition for the production of goods.

The banking sector must immediately cencentrate efforts on improving its system, policy, organization, and management. It must strive to curb inflation and try by all means to stabilize the Vietnamese dong's purchasing power to help keep the inflation rate down to around 30-40 percent in 1992 and prevent prices from spiraling. For this reason, the banking sector must quickly formulate a monetary policy suiting the market mechanism which is placed under the state management. This policy should be formulated on the basis of various effective economic and administrative measures. The key issues that must be urgently resolved include the interest rates, prices, credits, payments, management of cash, and use of facilities to implement the monetary policy.

It is necessary to say that we have shifted our economy to the commodity and market system, thus we must function in accordance with the marketing law. This is a very important and complex issue requiring our efforts to formulate rules and regulations and to ensure their smooth implementation, thereby creating favorable conditions for stabilizing and developing the economy. The bank must function as an institution for integrating capital and promoting the people's savings to serve socioeconomic development programs.

The pressing issue now is the shortage of capital for the economy. The bank on the one hand, must quickly rotate the available capital both in Vietnamese dong and foreign currencies, and on the other hand, strive to mobilize more capital from the people and economic organizations in terms of Vietnamese dong, gold, and foreign currencies. It must strive to expand relations with foreign countries to borrow more money. In addition to mobilizing capital, the bank must continue to improve and perfect the payment mechanism to quickly rotate capital for the national economy, while striving to eliminate subsidies through credits. In implementing the renovation undertaking, we have step by step abolished subsidies on prices and shifted the material-goods supplying system to the business one, now we have to strive to eliminate subsidies on capital. During the past several years, we have gradually had some achievements in this regard.

The Council of Ministers, in its February 1992 meeting, decided to apply a single interest rate on credits. Learning from lessons in 1991, agencies concerned will step by step apply this measure to allow economic organizations to gradually adapt to the new regulation, thus avoiding disturbances to their production and business.

The bank must continue to satisfactorily manage tasks related to foreign exchange and stabilizing prices of gold and the U.S. dollar. Attention should be paid to stabilizing prices of materials and goods to enable production establishments to plan their business so that they can consider the loss and profit factors. The bank must also keep a balance in foreign exchanges and currencies through a business system. It must ensure sufficient foreign currencies for import requirements in accordance with the set plans, make sure that production establishments open their accounts in Vietnamese dong and foreign currencies with the bank, strive to balance international payments, and quickly rotate capital borrowing from foreign countries.

In the days ahead, the banking sector must continue to carry out the renovation undertaking by striving to fundamentally renovate its mechanism, policy, organization, and apparatus while enhancing the capability of its cadres and personnel to suit the new mechanism. Only by making achievements in these tasks will the banking sector be able to make an important turning point in its operation, thereby triumphantly contributing to implementing the renovation undertaking and resolution of the party Central Committee's second plenum and that of the Eighth National Assembly's 10th session.

Future of Economy, Party Viewed

BK2003021192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Mar 92 p 5

[Article by Jacques Bekaert from the "Eye on Indochina" column: "Vietnam: A More Democratic Future?"]

[Text] Hanoi—In 1991 the Hanoi branch of the Communist Party of Vietnam recruited 1,500 new members. Among them, 38 percent came from the Youth Union, 22 percent were workers, 40 percent had higher education and 34 percent were women. The brief announcement, broadcast last January by Radio Hanoi, insisted on the quality of the new recruits and admitted that number of new members was rather low.

A senior party member in Ho Chi Minh City told us that it was increasingly difficult to find new members. "People are busy working. They have little time for ideological debates," he said. "Many of our members want action. They want business. They'd rather leave long debates to Northerners."

Are Vietnamese losing interest in the existence of the Communist Party? One would be tempted to answer yes. But, according to a variety of sources, including party officials, diplomats and ordinary Vietnamese citizens, the answer is a bit more complex.

"It is true that at the moment there is no great interest in the party's activities," said a senior party official in Hanoi. "People worry a lot more about the economy and their own well-being than about the views of the party."

"This is partly a consequence of the economic reforms," he said, adding that there was at least a lot more optimism about the future. "Look around you," he said. "The city of Hanoi is alive again. People are building, working, buying and selling."

"Young people are not greatly interested in the Communist Party anymore," said another source. "But," he added, "some young intellectuals and party members have also discovered that in the near future, they could make a big difference at the head of the party. They have noted that younger men and women received more important positions after the Seventh Congress. They believe that at the next Congress they will be able to take over and impose more reforms, more internal democracy and challenge the still large conservative body of cadres that still by and large control so many provinces."

When party secretary-general Nguyen Van Linh stepped down during the Seventh Congress last July, he was hoping to set an example. "It was a discreet message to countless local party officials, his way to let them know the time had come to take a good rest," one official said. Obviously the message was a bit too discreet, since hardly anyone followed the wise example of the secretary-general.

"There are no more conservatives in Vietnam," said a senior member of Hanoi's People's Committee. "If only it was true," exclaimed another party source who said he was getting grey hair fighting against the conservatives.

An Eastern European diplomat with a long experience in the three Indochina countries believes that the party in its present form can still survive for a while. There is no doubt that what happened in the USSR in the past two years has deeply influenced the views of many Vietnamese. They can see every night on state television the sorry plight of the Russians and other people from the former USSR. They are told again and again that this chaos is the result of the wrong policies of Mikhail Gorbachev, of too much political reform and too little economic reform.

The partial collapse of the once powerful Soviet army is attributed by Vietnamese top brass to a lack of ideological commitment. "Gorbachev made a terrible mistake when he decided to forbid the activities of the communist party in the army," said Lt- Gen Hoang Phuong, head of the Military Institute in Hanoi. "It is wrong to see an army in strictly military terms."

For the average citizen, the causes of the Soviet collapse are less interesting than the practical consequences. What most of them want is stability and a chance to finally improve their material existence. This does not mean, however, that in five years Vietnam will have a Western-style democracy. Cultural and political traditions must be taken into account, Lt-Gen Hoang Phuong said.

There are a lot of people in Vietnam, in the South as well as in the North, who want economic development more than political reform. The mid-term future of the Party will certainly depend on the success of the economic reforms. In five or six years the Party may have a different name and somewhat more pragmatic vision. It may still be a kind of socialist party, with more references to Ho Chi Minh and a lot less to Lenin, and maybe—it is strange to say this—more real social concerns than in the past.

Such a party, several sources believe, would be better equipped to take Vietnam into the next stage of its development. Such a party would also relinquish more power to the State, the Government, and the National Assembly. Some of our sources were even talking about a kind of Vietnamese People's Action Party—a reflection of the Vietnamese leadership's keen interest in Singapore.

"There is no doubt that we have to learn from the mistakes of the past," admitted Mr Nguyen Tai Ninh, a member of the Central Committee in charge of ideology and culture. "Doi moi (restructure) is the correct path for our country. Socialism is still young," he argued. "We went too fast in the past, but the party must keep some priorities, including the well-being of the people. We have managed to build some material basis for our people. In the future the main responsibility of the party will be to bring a better life to the people. We also have to enlarge the democratic nature of our system. We must make sure that more and more people are given a chance to express their point of view."

"We should not eliminate the best aspects of socialism," said former foreign minister Nguyen Co Thach. "Vietnam will develop its own specific socialist nature, but it will be in a friendly environment, internally and internationally."

Mr Nguyen Tai Ninh agreed that the question of political doi moi in relation to economic changes must be further addressed.

Most people may not be greatly concerned about the future of the Communist Party, a southern source explained. But it is also true that they do not want chaos and do not want to see the nation plunged into senseless battles between political factions. And they want the economy to develop more.

The coming third plenum in June will discuss the future of the Party. "The present generation of leaders cannot yet imagine life without the Party," a diplomatic source said. The next generation takes a different view. They see the Party as a kind of general manager who must allow the state machinery as much freedom as possible. But it must also prevent chaos.

They believe in more democracy, but realise that democracy is not something one improvises.

Political pluralism remains a very bad word. It is no secret that there have been attempts to form new "parties." Usually it comes to no more than small groups of friends with little or no knowledge of what a political party is. "It does not threaten the supremacy of the Communist Party," a well-informed source said. "Not yet."

But, he added, "the communist leaders should be aware that people are getting more and more sophisticated, in vague articles and speeches on the so-called citizens' right to mastery over the country, the catch phrase ritually included in all official celebrations of the Communist Party. They may not want a revolution, but they certainly want a more democratic society in the future."

Party Journal on Construction, Defense

BK2103115192 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese Feb 92 pp 3-4

[Editorial: "Building and Defending Our Country in the Spirit of Independence, Sovereignty and Self-Reliance"]

[Text] The precious lesson derived from the revolutionary struggle over the past six decades of our party and people is that we must always persist in our revolution and uphold our sense of independence, sovereignty, and self reliance in building and defending the country. As long as we have not thoroughly understood this lesson, the revolution will encounter difficulties, vacillate, and even incur defeat.

Many vivid examples in history can testify to this statement: During the first years of founding the party, under the influence of the leftist leaning of the International Communists, we at times overemphasized the class factor, neglected the national factor, and looked at the classes in the society not in conformity with the realities in Vietnam. This error led to the rally of only workers, peasants and other laboring people in the united national front and to the elimination of all national and patriotic factors in other classes and strata of people in the society.

However, these shortcomings did not last long. The facts have helped our party look at the problems more correctly and realistically. In 1936, when the dangers of fascism and world war were nearing, our party promptly shifted its strategic guidance and rallied all patriotic forces and people of all strata to the front for the struggle for freedom, democracy, improvement of livelihood and peace, and for opposing reactionary colonialism, fascism, and war. In 1941, the party established the Viet Minh Front, built the armed forces, and combined the military struggle with mass upheaval. In August 1945, when the opportunity came, our people from the North to the South simultaneously rose up and within only two weeks or so had liberated the entire country and won the administration over to the people.

Then, when the French colonialists returned to invade our country, the party took the initiative by staging a general, all-people, resistance struggle over a long period, relying mainly on our own force and simultaneously mobilizing and nurturing the people's strength, and winning the support of international friends. As a result, all aspects of the resistance forces advanced every day. The more we fought, the stronger and more victorious we became, defeating many strategies and tactics of the French imperialists and U.S interventionists and finally winning the decisive victory which swept all enemies out of the north of our country.

Immediately after the victorious resistance struggle against France, our party adopted the policy of land reform in combination with organizational consolidation. This was a totally correct and necessary policy. Nevertheless, due to the application of foreign experience in a dogmatic and mechanical fashion, we committed many serious mistakes, the most serious of which adversely affected the internal ranks of our party, causing the party to become weak.

Promptly aware of these mistakes, our party quickly corrected them. The mass movement was later restored. All aspects of economic, social, national defense, and security activities continued to be maintained and developed vigorously. The north truly played its role as a giant rear area for the south—the great frontline—during the years of the anti-U.S. war of resistance.

When the Geneva accords were signed, our country was temporarily divided into two regions. The U.S. imperialists replaced the French imperialists in trying to sabotage the Paris accords and laying on the neck of our southern compatriots a neocolonialist ruling yoke. Upholding the spirit of independence and sovereignty, our party resisted external pressure, resolutely mapped out a policy to liberate the south and unify the country, and led the people to implement this policy.

Our party developed to the fullest our people's revolutionary heroism, upheld its spirit of independence and its self-reliance determination, and at the same time, tried to win the active support of various socialist countries as well as of the progressive people the world over. Thanks to this, our people successfully defeated the U.S. imperialists-waged war of aggression—the longest, fiercest war conducted on a large scale since the Second World War.

Following the victory of the anti-U.S. war of resistance for national salvation, our party gathered its strength to lead the entire country toward socialism. The party tried to conduct research to build a socialist revolutionary line. However, it committed numerous mistakes because it was subjective and also because it acted at will and violated the objective law, resulting in numerous disastrous consequences. At the sixth party congress, our party sternly criticized itself for the aforementioned shortcomings. It also came up with a renovation policy.

Our renovation policy is not patterned after any country's format or model. This renovation policy, which bears Vietnam's identity and is compatible with Vietnam's realities, calls for carrying renovation in a comprehensive, uniform, positive, and principled manner with the appropriate steps. Our party has constantly reasserted that renovation should be carried out in such a way as to maintain the socialist path. Renovation is by no means a change in our goal. Instead, this goal should be effectively achieved with correct notions about socialism. Therefore, our renovation undertaking has scored initial but very important results. The socioeconomic situation has undergone positive changes for the better, thus paving the way for further progress. This has testified to the correctness of the path on which we are travelling and the way our revolution is being pursued.

Amid the current situation of a highly complex changing world where realistic socialism has collapsed in the Soviet Union and East Europe, the imperialist and reactionary forces are trying to blockade, isolate, and sabotage socialist construction in our country while our socioeconomic situation is still fraught with difficulties and caught in a crisis. Faced with such a situation, we have no alternative other than to continue to uphold our spirit of independence and sovereignty and our determination to remain self-reliant and to practice thrift in national construction. As we have done these things before, we should continue to do so even more satisfactorily. Nobody can think and work on our behalf. We should not just sit and wait for gratuitous aid from abroad. Presently, aid giving and business cooperation are done on a "reciprocal" and "mutually-beneficial" basis. Seeking loans is necessary, but when doing so, we should think of how to repay our debts, both of capital and interest. We cannot count on the "kind assistance" of the imperialists for socialist construction.

To put it briefly, we should build and defend our country with our own strength and intelligence as was formerly advised by Uncle Ho to use our own strength to liberate ourselves. The seventh party congress pointed out that the guiding watchword for the renovation undertaking in our country was to strengthen all-people unity and foster patriotism and national pride, and a determination to remain self-reliant and to practice thrift in national construction.

We should, of course, understand correctly the essence of the spirit of independence, sovereignty, and self-reliance. Achieving independence, sovereignty, and self-reliance does not mean staying withdrawn, closing our door, keeping ourselves from contact with other people, and adopting a narrow-minded and particularistic attitude. These days, no country can achieve growth without opening its door to the outside world or without the need for international solidarity and cooperation. Now as always, our party constantly advocates that maintaining independence, sovereignty, and self-reliance should be linked with efforts to seek international solidarity and cooperation, and that efforts to combine our national strength with epochal strength should be regarded as a valuable lesson and also as the law of evolution of the Vietnamese revolution.

Given the current situation, our party should emphasize more specifically the need to combine the strength of our people with that of the era by combining the maintenance of independence and sovereignty with efforts to seek international solidarity and cooperation. At the seventh party congress, our party solemnly stated that with a wide-opened foreign policy, Vietnam wishes to befriend all nations in the world community as part of its struggle for peace, independence, and development [Footnote 1] [Documents of the the Seventh National Party Congress, Su That Publishing House, Hanoi, 1991, page 147]. We advocate achieving equal-footing and mutually-beneficial cooperation with all nations, irrespective of their different political and social systems, based on the principles of peaceful coexistence.

But the more we broaden our relations of international solidarity and cooperation, the more we will have to firmly maintain our spirit of independence, sovereignty, and self-reliance, trying not to rely on or depend on outside assistance. Facts show that only with independence, sovereignty, and self-reliance can efforts to broaden international solidarity and cooperation become effective and capable of bringing about rapid national development while maintaining national identity.

Our party is one that has been forged and tested in untold hardships and difficulties. It has been well-seasoned and hardened in the revolutionary struggle. Our people and our nation have a high sense of self-reliance and national pride. We have courageously fought back those aggressive forces which are ten times larger than us to defend our country and our country's cultural identity. All these constitute favorable conditions for us to maintain and uphold our spirit of independence and sovereignty and our self-reliant determination in our cause of building and defending our beloved Vietnamese nation.